ALBERTA'S METIS SETTLEMENTS
A COMPENDIUM OF
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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PREFACE

There exists eight Metis Settlements (formerly colonies) in central and northern Alberta. These settlements were established by the Alberta Government in the late 1930's as part of a comprehensive scheme to assist the Metis people in improving their living conditions.

The purpose of this document is to provide an historical overview of Metis Settlements and its governing legislation The Metis Betterment Act. Selected copies of original reports and legislation are compiled to give the reader an historical perspective of the Metis Settlements. It should be noted that this compendium is intended to serve as a guide and not a definitive paper on the Settlements.

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this document are those of
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HIGHLIGHTS

- February 27, 1933. Resolution : Alberta Legislature.

  The government should make enquiry into and concerning the problems of health, education and general welfare of the half-breed population.

- December 12, 1934.

  Commissioners appointed to conduct inquiry into conditions of Metis people - Albert F. Ewing, Edward A. Braithwaite and James McCrie Douglas.

- February 15, 1936.

  Ewing Commission presented its report to Legislative Assembly. Report described conditions among the Metis as an "unfortunate state of affairs" and suggested the formation of farm colonies for the Metis.

- November 22, 1938.

  The Metis Population Betterment Act enacted. Metis defined as a person of mixed white and Indian blood but does not include either an Indian or non-treaty Indian as defined in the Indian Act, being Chapter 98 of The Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927.

- 1938 - 39: Establishment of Metis Colonies.

- 1940:

  Metis person redefined in The Metis Population Betterment Act. Metis means a person of mixed white and Indian blood having not less than one-quarter Indian blood, but does not include either an Indian or non-treaty Indian as defined in the Indian Act, being Chapter 98 of The Revised Statues of Canada, 1927.

- November 20, 1943.

  O-C 1785-43 establishes The Metis Population Betterment Trust Fund to be held by the Provincial Treasurer on behalf and for the benefit of Settlement Associations.

- 1969:

  Metis Association of Alberta proposes to the Human Resources Development Authority that The Metis Betterment Act, the Metis Settlements and the Metis Rehabilitation Branch be examined by a committee from the Public Service of Canada.

- February 1972:

  Metis Task Force submitted its report to the Government of Alberta.

- 1980:

  Administration of Metis Settlements transferred from the Department of Social Services and Community Health to the Municipal Affairs Department.

- March 31, 1982:

  Joint Metis-Government Committee established to review The Metis Betterment Act and its regulations. The Committee was to act in an advisory capacity and in particular to make recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs that would allow for political, social, cultural and economic development on settlements.

- July 12, 1984:

  Joint Committee submitted its report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Committee recommendations include self-government, security of land and local autonomy on settlements.

CANADA

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

(Signed) W.L. WALSH
Lieutenant Governor.

-COMMISSION-

SEAL

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in any wise concern.

GREETING

WHEREAS on the 27th day of February, 1933, the Legislature passed the following resolution:-

"WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly recognizes that the representations and requests of the half-breed population of Northern Alberta as presented to the Government by their representatives of the said population should receive the fullest and best consideration by the Government; be it therefore

"RESOLVED, that the Government should during the present year, keeping particularly in mind the health, education, relief and general welfare of the half-breed population, continue its study and enquiry into the problem and present its recommendations to this Assembly within ten days of the commencement of the next Session thereof."

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient and in the public interest that enquiries be made into and concerning the problems of health, education and general welfare of the half-breed population of the Province pursuant to the provisions of The Public Inquiries Act, being Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1922;

NOW KNOW YE that by and with the advice of our Lieutenant Governor in Council, We do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint the Honourable Albert Freeman Ewing, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Alberta; Edward Ainslie Braithwaite of Edmonton, Doctor of Medicine, and James McCrie Douglas, Gentleman, the Commissioners to make such inquiry and to report thereon;

AND WE DO DECLARE the above matter referred to Our said Commissioners to be a matter of Public concern, and under the authority of "An Act respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters" confer upon our said Commissioners the power of summoning witnesses before them, and of requiring such witnesses to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation (if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters) and to produce such documents and things as the said Commissioners may deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to inquire.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS: His Honour the Honourable William Legh Walsh, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province at Our Government House, in Our City of Edmonton, this twelfth day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four and in the twenty-fifth year of His Majesty's Reign.

BY COMMAND :

(Signed) R. G. REID,

Provincial Secretary.

TO THE HONOURABLE
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL
EDMONTON

BY RESOLUTION bearing date the 27th day of February, 1933, the Legislature of the Province of Alberta resolved that the Government should make enquiry into the condition of the half-breed population of the Province of Alberta, keeping particularly in mind the health, education, relief and general welfare of such population.

By Order in Council dated the 12th day of December, 1934, the Honourable Alberta Freeman Ewing, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Alberta, Edward Ainslie Braithwaite, of Edmonton, Doctor of Medicine, and James McCrie Douglas, of Edmonton, Gentleman, were appointed Commissioners, pursuant to The Public Inquiries Act, being Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1922, to make such inquiries and to report thereon.

Your Commissioners held extended meetings at Edmonton which were widely advertised and which were largely attended by the leading officers and representatives of L'Association des Metis de l'Alberta et les Territoires du Nord Ouest, as well as by those having an intimate knowledge of half-breed conditions, such as Rt. Rev. J. Guy, Bishop of Grouard, Rt. Rev. E. Breyant, Bishop of Mackenzie, Rev. W. H. Day, J. M. Dechene, M.L.A., Donald McLeod, M.L.A., Frank R. Falconer, M.L.A., Dr. McIntyre, Dr. Orr, and many others. Mr. M. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies for the Province of Alberta, was good enough to give the Commission the benefit of his extensive knowledge and experience. Meetings were held by members of the Commission at High Prairie at which delegates from the half-breed settlement at Grouard and other points, attended. Other meetings were held at Lac la Biche, Goodfish Lake, Grand Cache, Chipewyan, Athabaska, Groff, Frog Lake and Marlboro. At the Edmonton meetings the Association was represented by Mr. Pennock, Barrister, of Edmonton.

The half-breed situation in Canada has a long and interesting history dating back almost to Confederation. At the outset, the Government of Canada embarked on a policy of making the Indian a ward of the Government, paying him treaty money annually, gathering him on reserves when convenient or possible, giving him rations, superintending his business transactions, training him in agriculture and giving him certain elementary education. The half-breed, on the other hand, retained his status as a citizen and apart from special considerations later given by way of grants of land or scrip, was treated in the same way as the rest of the civil population of the country.

The Dominion Lands Act of 1883, gave to the Governor in Council power to satisfy any claims in connection with the extinguishing of the Indian title preferred by half-breeds resident in the Northwest Territories previous to the 15th of July, 1870, by granting lands to such persons. In pursuance of this power it was decided to issue to each half-breed head of a family resident in the Northwest Territories previous to the 15th day of July, 1870, scrip redeemable in land. From that time a series of amendments and orders in council gradually enlarged the classes and numbers of those entitled to scrip until the issue embraced practically all the half-breeds resident in Western Canada. Parliament took all the reasonable precautions to see that the scrip thus issued was inalienable and that the half-breed should be the owner of the land on which the scrip was located. The story of this scrip and its final outcome is still vivid in living memory. The precautions of Parliament were easily circumvented and the scrip passed readily and cheaply into the hands of speculators. The resultant advantages to the half-breeds were negligible. The policy of the Federal Government, however, extending over a period of thirty years, and these issues of scrip, throw a strong light on the present problem.

In the first place, the scrip was issued in extinguishment of any supposed right which the half-breed had to special consideration. But the Government of this Province is now faced, not with a legal or contractual right, but with an actual condition of privation, penury and suffering. The right to live cannot be extinguished and the situation as revealed to your Commission seems to call for Governmental guidance and assistance.

In the next place, the scrip issue reveals that the great majority of half-breeds have not the so-called "land hunger" and are not desirous of becoming land owners or of settling down on land permanently and exclusively as farmers or stock-growers. This important fact, must, we think, always be kept in mind in dealing with measures for assisting the half-breed.

In the next place, the readiness with which the half-breed succumbed to the wiles and persuasions of the speculators in parting with the scrip indicates his lack of business foresight. This is not to be wondered at. The half-breed played an important part as guide and voyageur in opening up this western country. He lived by hunting and fishing. He was not accustomed to remaining in one place. His native ancestors had lived from time immemorial even closer to nature. His business transactions were of the most simple character. He lived from day to day. He had no training in modern business and was not accustomed to take the long view of life. The influx of the white population has destroyed his former occupations in the settled areas and has rendered them much more precarious in the unsettled areas. The logic of the situation would seem to be that he must either change his mode of life to conform with that of the white inhabitants or he must gradually disappear. This is a hard alternative. Considerations of humanity and justice forbid that we should calmly or indifferently contemplate the latter alternative. Such a change as is required by the former alternative is not easy. A long process of education and training is necessary. A gradual initiation into the new life is the only possible way. It is during this long period of transition rendered necessary by the white man that he has a right to look to the white man and to the white man's organized system of Government for help, for guidance, and for encouragement. The leaders of the Metis Association very frankly based the claim of the Metis to special consideration on the admitted fact that the half-breed is constitutionally unable to compete with the white man in the race of modern life.

It may be well to define here the term "half-breed" or "Metis". We are not concerned with a technically correct definition. We merely wish to give a clear meaning to the term as used in this report. By either term is meant a person of mixed blood, white and Indian, who lives the life of the ordinary Indian, and includes a non-treaty Indian. It is apparent to everyone that there are in this Province many persons of mixed blood (Indian and white) who have settled down as farmers, who are making a good living in that occupation and who do not need, nor do they desire, public assistance. The term as used in this report has no application to such men.

It would probably be advisable first to state the findings of facts of the Commission classified under their various headings. It may be observed that the half-breed population is scattered in various-sized groups over a great part of the northern portion of this Province. It is obvious that somewhat different conditions may prevail in different areas, but the Commission has not thought it advisable to deal with such groups separately but rather to deal with those general conditions to which a general policy of assistance can be applied. There are no authoritative figures as to the half-breed population of Alberta but the Secretary of the Metis organization estimates the Metis population at about eleven thousand, of all ages.

HEALTH

A considerable amount of evidence was given on this subject. Bishop Guy, who has had a large experience with the Metis in the diocese of Grouard, sums up the situation regarding health conditions as follows: -

> "Health conditions are at their worst in many districts:
>
> (a) Half-breeds generally live away from doctors or nurses;
>
> (b) They have not the means to go to them or pay for their services;
>
> (c) There is no travelling doctor or nurse;
>
> (d) Sanitary condition of homes is responsible for Tuberculosis, Scrofula, etc. The propagation of communicable diseases, especially V.S. is easy on account of promiscuity;
>
> (e) Lack of proper food (even of any food at all) e.g. fish, dried meat (both containing iodine, so vital a help for Indians and half-breeds)."

The Secretary of the Metis organization was of opinion that fifty per cent of the Metis population in the settlement with which he was acquainted had venereal disease and that seventy-five per cent of this particular population had communicable diseases. This would seem, however, to be an overstatement. Two medical doctors with experience among the Metis gave evidence. One doctor was of opinion that tuberculosis was more common among the Metis than among the white population. The other doctor expressed the opinion that venereal disease was not much more prevalent among the Metis than among white men, nor does he think that the percentage of this disease is excessively high. It was also given in evidence that infant mortality was high among the Metis.

The difficulties are apparent. If one of the Metis is ill, it is difficult and often practically impossible to send in medical assistance to the patient and it is equally difficult or impossible to get the patient to the doctor. The nomadic life of these people adds to the difficulty. On the whole, the Commission is of the opinion that while the health situation is serious, it is not, except as to the particular diseases mentioned, more serious than among the white settlers. As to the communicable diseases mentioned, the Commission is of opinion that all possible steps should be taken to stamp them out. In all cases as large a measure of medical attention as is reasonably possible should be given. Recommendations for these purposes will be dealt with later in this report.

EDUCATION

Opinions may differ as to the amount and kind of education which ought to be given to one who is at present living, and will probably continue after his school days are ended, to live the life of the Indian or the nomad. Many are of opinion that it is advantageous to take the half-breed child into a large boarding school and teach him the conveniences and amenities of modern life. The argument is that when he returns to his former life he will do so with a desire to approximate as nearly as circumstances will permit, to the better life of his school days. Others take the view that after his education in modern life he is bound to return to the mode of life which he formerly lived and by which he will be surrounded, and that he is bound to revert to the type which that life produces. It is not so much that he will revert, but that he has lost contact with this life for a number of years and that he will revert less able and less inclined to meet the rigorous demands of that life. No evidence was given on this point nor is the experience of the Commissioners sufficient to appraise the practical value of these arguments. Actual experience will probably be the best guide. In any case the controversy cannot affect the desirability of giving to the Metis child an ordinary public school education, coupled with an elementary training in agriculture, and in addition giving the girls elementary training in sewing and knitting.

The evidence is, that in all these settlements where there are no white schools large numbers of children are growing up without any education. Certain church or denominational schools are doing splendid work on a purely voluntary basis. Bishop Guy points out that 100 half-breed children are being educated in the Grouard district without cost to the parents or to the Government. It was stated that 80 per cent of the half-breed children of the Province of Alberta receive no education whatever. Even those Metis children who live within an area served by a public school are averse to going to such school because they are ridiculed and humiliated by the white children.

The same difficulties arise in connection with education as with medical service. Settlements are few and scattered. The people are largely nomads. They go where they can fish at certain seasons and go where they can hunt and gather fur at other seasons.

Obviously, a teacher cannot follow them. If it is taken to be a matter of public policy that no child within reasonable access shall be permitted to grow up without an elementary education, then a fairly comprehensive plan is necessary. This will be dealt with later.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The evidence as to general conditions among the Metis population indicates an unfortunate state of affairs. The plight of those living in or near white settlements seems to be worse than that of those who live remote from settlement. Those living near white settlements have few means of livelihood. They tend to roam about less than those in more remote places. Fishing is sometimes available, game is difficult to get and fur-bearing animals can only be caught on distant trap-lines. Those half-breeds are said to be living in shacks on road allowances and eking out a miserable existence, shunned and suspected by the white population.

Those living in more remote places are better off, but their living is precarious. When the fishing is good and the game plentiful and fur abundant, they do well enough. When these fail, as they do, periodically, then the Metis in these areas suffer privation. Then, too, they have practically no educational or health services. In practically all cases they live in shacks which are often crowded and never ventilated. Food is often scarce and clothing is almost always insufficient. If illness overtakes a child or member of the group, he or she must, without proper care or food or medical attention and without any of the comforts of life, await the result.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Before embarking on recommendations for relieving the conditions herein referred to, the Commissioners desire to make a few preliminary remarks:

1. In the first place, we assume that the problem cannot be properly or adequately met by giving temporary assistance to individuals as the occasion seems to require. If met at all, the problem must be met by a comprehensive scheme which will go to its root and offer an ultimate solution.

2. Your Commissioners understand that this is a time when every Government in Canada is under the necessity of curtailing expenditure. No Government is prepared to embark on any new undertaking which involves large expenditures. It would be easy to recommend a large and expensive scheme which would seem to meet the desired ends. Your Commissioners, however, realize that such a scheme is not feasible at this time. All we can hope is to submit a relatively inexpensive scheme which would be capable of expansion in better times if time and experience show such expansion to be desirable.

3. Your Commissioners are of opinion that they should not submit a scheme which would give to the half-breeds the status of the Indian and thereby make him a ward of the Government. Not only would such a scheme require large and expensive machinery to operate it but we think it is undesirable as well. Such a relationship ought not to be encouraged. It would make the Metis dependent upon the Government for support. It would undermine his initiative, destroy his sense of responsibility and prevent his ever becoming a self-supporting citizen.

4. We may add that the Metis themselves, through their authorized representatives, assure us that they will freely assist in any scheme which may be adopted by giving their labour free of charge. For example, in the erection of dwelling houses, schools, etc., they undertake that they will cut the lots, supply all the unskilled labour necessary for the erection of buildings.

As the supply of fur, fish and game gradully becomes less, and as it becomes increasingly difficult for the Metis to earn a livelihood from these sources, it becomes evident that the only hope of making a half-breed a self-supporting citizen is through agriculture and particularly stock raising. No other form of livelihood is reasonably open for the great majority of the Metis. It may be objected that the great majority of them have for long years refused to follow farming as an occupation. That is true: but it is also true that a considerable number of them have been and are successful farmers. It is also true that because of dwindling results from hunting and trapping the pressure upon the Metis was never stronger than it is now, to turn elsewhere for a livelihood. Apart from this, it is a matter of educating and guiding them along the only line which offers a hope of future independence.

After considering all the representations made and giving their best thought to the problem, your Commissioners are of opinion that some form of farm colonies is the most effective, and, ultimately, the cheapest method of dealing with the problem. The objection is at once raised that this will interfere with their hunting and trapping. We think, however, that the plan will not, particularly in its earlier stages, seriously interfere with these occupations. We think, however, that over a long period of time the tendency will be to make the half-breed more and more dependent on farming and stock raising. This is the aim and purpose of the plan.

"A"

We suggest that the plan be taken up experimentally at first by selecting say two areas to be set aside each for a farm colony. The main requirements of such an area should be as follows:-

1. The area should contain a very considerable amount of reasonably good agricultural land.
2. It should contain, or be adjacent to, a lake or lakes from which a supply of fish could be obtained.
3. It should have sufficient accessible timber suitable for the erection of log buildings.
4. If possible, the area should be capable of being enlarged if the scheme should later require expansion.
5. The area selected should be such as will be free from interference by white settlers.

The selection of the areas must be left to the experts of the Government who can gather all the available information and weigh the various requirements.

"B"

Each head of a family should be allotted a parcel of land. The title to the land should remain perpetually in the Crown but the allottee should be assured of continuous tenure both in himself and his heirs so long as there is no forfeiture resulting from misconduct. Opinions differ widely as to the proper size of the proposed parcel, varying all the way from a garden plot to a half section. It may well be that no uniform size should be adopted. The man who is completely indifferent to farming would be content to start with a garden plot. The man who shows some aptitude for farming might be given a larger area, the size being determined by his capacity properly to use it.

"C"

The final control of these colonies must continue to rest with the Department concerned. The management will be carried out under such superintendents or instructors as may be necessary. As matters develop it may be thought wise to provide for a council to be elected by the members of the colony and to be invested with advisory powers only.

"D"

The buildings should be erected under the supervision of an instructor appointed by the Government, the allottee supplying the logs and doing all the work, the Government supplying merely doors, windows and hardware.

"E"

The colony generally should be under the supervision of an instructor or inspector appointed by the Government. He would, of course, have only such power as might be given him by regulation, but in a general way he should have control of the operations of the colony and should in addition have the powers of a police magistrate. The Government would supply a limited amount of farm machinery. This machinery would remain the property of the Government and could be used in common various allottees under the direction of the instructor. It may be hoped that in a short time many of the settlers would be able to purchase their own machinery.

"F"

The allotment of a parcel would be a privilege. No half-breed would have an inherent right to join the colony and non half-breed would be compelled to join the colony but if he did not join he could have no claim for public assistance. Persons who are familiar with the half-breed situation as well as with the half-breeds themselves, assure the Commission that the half-breeds would gladly enter upon a colonization scheme.

Many other regulations suggest themselves but these can be worked out in practice. The allottees should be taught farming, dairying and stock raising. They would get food from hunting and fishing. In the earlier stages the whole of their living would come from these sources. It is to be hoped that they would, in time, come to rely more and more on their farming and stock raising operations.

The Commission is given to understand that there are certain half-breeds who are among the more capable of the Metis population and who make a fairly good living by hunting and trapping. These men would not wish to join the colony but are desirous of getting a location to enable them more efficiently to carry on their work. If there is no reason to the contrary it is suggested that these men be given the use of a parcel of land not exceeding 320 acres, to be held on the same tenure as that held by members of the colony and subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be thought proper.

The Commission is of opinion that as the Metis were the original inhabitants of these great unsettled areas and are dependent on wild life and fish for their livelihood, they should be given the preference over non-residents in respect of fur, game and fish. This does not mean that they should be given exclusive rights in these matters, because experts in these various lines assure us that such a policy would not be good for the fur-bearing animals, the game or the fish. They should, however, be given free permits under proper regulations, both for fishing and hunting, and if any are in danger of depletion, that particular area should be protected for the Metis who should be given preferred rights. We are firmly of opinion that non-resident commercial operators have no right to deplete the fish, the game and fur-bearing animals in any district and leave the native inhabitants to be a charge on the country.

The Commission is of opinion that the plan could be launched with small expenditure. Whatever expenditure subsequently becomes necessary would be justified on the ground that the Metis problem is being put in the way of ultimate extinction.

It will be observed that this plan would assist much in solving both the health problem and the educational problem. Until such time as a resident doctor became necessary a doctor could visit the colony at intervals, selecting the time of his visits so that he would be able to meet the greatest number. A monthly clinic should be held. A modest hospital could be established, which, in time, would become partially, if not wholly, self-sustaining.

The representatives of the Metis were emphatic in their statements that the Metis wished only such assistance as might be necessary to enable them to establish themselves and that they were anxiously looking foward to the time when they would be self-supporting. Indeed, we are of opinion that the policy of giving something for nothing should be avoided except where plainly necessary.

Schools could be built and the wives and families encouraged to remain in the colony. In any case, all the children could be able to attend during some portion of the year. The children should be taught reading and writing and elementary arithmetic. In addition, the boys should be taught stock raising and farming, while the girls should be taught the elements of sanitation, cleanliness, sewing and knitting. The cost would not be great and the Province would be saved the stigma which attaches to any civilized country that permits a large number of children to grow up within its boundaries without the slightest elementary education.

Finally, the Commission desires to thank the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. T. C. Rankine, for his very efficient work in collecting material for the Commission and for the highly capable and courteous manner in which he has discharged his duties as Secretary.

We attach hereto the original Commission appointing your Commissioners and also a copy of the evidence taken orally at the various hearings.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. F. Ewing
Commissioner
(Signed) J. M. Douglas
Commissioner
(Signed) E. A. Braithwaite
Commissioner

EDMONTON, February 15th, 1936.

1938

(SECOND SESSION)

CHAPTER 6.

An Act Respecting the Metis Population of the Province.

(Assented to November 22, 1938.)

Preamble

WHEREAS by the report, dated the 15th day of February, 1936, of a commission appointed pursuant to *The Public Inquiries Act*, on the 27th day of February, 1933, certain recommendations were made for the betterment of the general welfare of the metis population of the Province;

And whereas it is convenient and in the public interest that the ways and means of giving effect to such recommendations should be arrived at by means of conferences and negotiations between the Government of the Province and representatives of the metis population of the Province;

Enactment

Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as *"The Metis Population Betterment Act."*

Definitions

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires,—

"Metis"

(*a*) "Metis" means a person of mixed white and Indian blood but does not include either an Indian or a non-treaty Indian as defined in *The Indian Act*, being chapter 98 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927;

"Minister"

(*b*) "Minister" means the member of the Executive Council who is for the time being charged by the Lieutenant Governor in Council with the administration of this Act.

Co-operation by Minister with Boards of associations

3. The Minister is hereby authorized and empowered to do such acts and things as he may consider proper for the purpose of co-operating with the Board of any association formed pursuant to section 4 of this Act formulating one or more schemes for the purpose of bettering the general welfare of the metis population of the Province, and for the settlement of the members of such association on lands set aside for that purpose by the Province.

Promotion of associations by Minister

4.—(1) The Minister is hereby authorized and empowered to promote the formation of one association or more composed of members of the metis population of the Province who are unable to secure out of their own resources a reasonable standard of living.

Constitution and by-laws of associations; (2) The constitution and by-laws of any such association shall prescribe the qualifications for membership in any such association and the conditions of membership therein, and shall provide that the control of the business and affairs of the association shall be in a Board consisting of not more than five personss and shall make provision for election of the members of the Board and their respective terms of office and the manner in which the activities of the association shall be carried on.

their aims and objects; (3) The aims and objects of any such association shall be to co-operate with the Minister in preparing and formulating schemes for the betterment of the members of such association, and for their settlement on lands set aside for that purpose by the Province.

necessity for approval by Minister; (4) The constitution of any such association shall be subject to the approval of the Minister and when it is so approved, it shall be binding upon all the members thereof.

amendment of constitution (5) The Board of any association may alter or amend its constitution only with the approval of the Minister, and any such alteration or amendment shall be of no force or effect until the same is approved by the Minister.

Submission of schemes to the Lieutenant Governor in Council and if approved to the Legislature 5. Every scheme formulated pursuant to this Act shall be submitted by the Minister to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for approval, and upon the same being so approved, shall be laid upon the table of the Legislative Assembly at the next Session thereof which commences after the expiration of thirty days from the date upon which such scheme is so approved and within ten days after the day upon which such Session commences.

Setting Aside of Provincial Lands 6. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time and from time to time by order set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial lands as defined in *The Provincial Lands Act* any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of the members of any association formed pursuant to section 4 and withdraw the same from disposal under *The Provincial Lands Act* until such time as the Lieutenant Governor in Council is satisfied that for any reason whatsoever the lands so set aside and withdrawn from disposal are unsuitable or are not required for the settlement of any members of any such association.

Regulation of Hunting on Land Set Aside by Order in Council 7. Notwithstanding anything contained in *The Game Act, 1932*, or any other Act to the contrary, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may by order prohibit the hunting, trapping, killing or taking of any game bird, fur-bearing animal or fur-producing animal

upon any land set aside pursuant to section 6, by any person who is not the member of a designated association formed pursuant to this Act, and may make regulations governing the hunting, trapping and killing of any game bird, fur-bearing animal or fur-producing animal or any designated kind or description thereof by any person and prescribing penalties recoverable on summary conviction for the breach of any such regulation not in excess of one hundred dollars and costs.

Coming into force of Act 8. This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to.

UNOCCUPIED PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE WOLF LAKE AREA

Edmonton, Wednesday, December 21, 1938.

Whereas, an Act designated The Metis Population Betterment Act (Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938, (Second Session)), was enacted and assented to on November 22nd, 1938; and

Whereas, under Section 6 of the said Act, it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of any members of any Metis Association, formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act, until further ordered; and

Whereas, it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Wolf Lake area, consisting of the lands hereunder described:

All of Township 66 and the north half of Township 65, Range 7, west of the Fourth Meridian in the Province of Alberta;

All of Township 66 and the north half of Township 65, Range 8, west of the Fourth Meridian in the Province of Alberta;

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the executive council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands, be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed, pursuant to Section 4 of the above referred to Act;

Further, that the said area shall be known as Colony No. 8A Wolf Lake, and that any members thereof entering on the above described lands, shall be entitled to surface rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 1604-38)

UNOCCUPIED PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE UTIKUMA LAKE AREA

Edmonton, Wednesday, December 21, 1938.

Whereas, an Act designated The Metis Population Betterment Act (Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938, (Second Session)), was enacted and assented to on November 22nd, 1938; and

Whereas, under Section 6 of the said Act, it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of members of any Metis Association, formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act, until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Utikuma Lake area, consisting of the lands hereinafter described:

All that portion of Township 79, Range 10, west of the Fifth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta not covered by the waters of Utikuma Lake;

All that portion of Township 79, Range 11, west of the Fifth Meridian in the Province of Alberta not covered by the waters of Utikuma Lake and Utikumisis Lake and not included in the Indian Reserve;

All that portion of Township 80, Range 11, west of the Fifth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta, lying to the south and west of and not covered by the waters of Utikumisis Lake, being approximately Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Township;

And all of Townships 78, 79, and 80, Range 12, west of the Fifth Meridian in the Province of Alberta;

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the executive council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands, be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed, pursuant to Section 4 of the above mentioned Act;

Further that the said area shall be known as Colony No. 3, Utikuma Lake, and any members entering on the above describe lands shall be entitled to surface rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 1602-38)

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

ADDITIONAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF DULY QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF METIS COLONY, No. 8A, WOLF LAKE

Edmonton, Tuesday, April 18, 1939.

Whereas, under the provisions of The Metis Population Betterment Act (being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938 (Second Session)), and as authorized by Order in Council numbered 1604-38, Metis Colony, No. 8A, Wolf Lake, was organized and the lands described in the said Order in Council were set aside for the use of the said colony: and

Whereas it is deemed necessary and advisable that additional lands be set aside for the use of the said Metis Colony, No. 8A, Wolf Lake, in addition to those set out in Order in Council numbered 1604-38;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that all of the south half of Township 65, Range 7, west of the Fourth Meridian, excepting thereout all of Section 4 and the south-west quarter of Section 6 of the said Township, and reserving thereout the rights granted to W. O. Clark, of Cold Lake, under a Special Timber Permit, covering the south-west quarter of Section 1 of the said Township; and all of the south half of Township 65, Range 8, west of the Fourth Meridian; and all of Township 66, Range 9, west of the Fourth Meridian, be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under "The Provincial Lands Act" for the use of duly qualified members of Colony No. 8A, Wolf Lake, and any such members entering upon the above described lands shall be entitled to Surface Rights only, until regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 448-39)

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938 (SECOND SESSION), ADDITIONAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF THE METIS COLONY No. 3, UTIKUMA LAKE

Edmonton, Tuesday, March 14, 1939.

Whereas (pursuant to the provisions of The Metis Population Betterment Act, being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938 (Second Session), and as authorized by Order in Council numbered 1602-38), Metis Colony No. 3, Utikuma Lake, was organized, and the lands as described in the said Order in Council were set aside for the use of the said Colony; and

Whereas it is deemed necessary and advisable, that additional lands be set aside for the use of the said Utikuma Lake, Colony No. 3, in addition to those set out in Order in Council numbered 1602-38;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that all of Sections 7 and 8, Township 80, Range 11, west of the Fifth Meridian, not covered by the waters of Lake Utikumisis, but excluding all that portion of Lot 15 covered by Grant of Letters Patent of the Lake Utikumisis Settlement, being part of Section 8, Township 80, Range 11, west of the Fifth Meridian; and all of Section 17, and all that portion of Section 18 not covered by the waters of Lake Utikumisis in Township 80, Range 11, west of the Fifth Meridian, be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of Colony No. 3, Utikuma Lake, and any such members entering upon the above described lands shall be entitled to surface rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 302-39)

UNOCCUPIED PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE COLD LAKE AREA

Edmonton, Wednesday, December 21, 1938.

Whereas, an Act designated The Metis Population Betterment Act (Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938, (Second Session)), was enacted and assented to on November 22nd, 1938; and

Whereas, under Section 6 of the said Act, it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of members of any Metis Association, formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act, until further ordered; and

Whereas, it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Cold Lake area consisting of the lands hereunder described,—

The east half of Township 66, Range 1, west of the Fourth Meridian in the Province of Alberta;

All that portion of Section 14, Township 65, Range 1, west of the Fourth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta, not covered by the waters of Cold Lake, and not including the island at the mouth of Matenau River—

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the executive council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands, be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed, pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act;

Further, that the said area shall be known as Colony No. 9, Cold Lake, and that any members thereof, entering on the above described lands shall be entitled to surface rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council

(O.C. 1605-38)

UNOCCUPIED PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE MARLBORO AREA

Edmonton, Wednesday, December 21, 1938

Whereas, an Act designated The Metis Population Betterment Act (Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938, (Second Session)), was enacted and assented to on November 22nd, 1938; and

Whereas, under Section 6 of the said Act, it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of members of any Metis Association, formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act, until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Marlboro area, consisting of the lands hereunder described,—

All of Townships 55 and 56, Range 20, west of the Fifth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta;

All of Township 55, Range 21, west of the Fifth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta;

All that portion of Township 55, Range 22, west of the Fifth Meridian in the Province of Alberta, east of the Athabasca River;

All that portion of Township 56, Ranges 21 and 22, west of the Fifth Meridian in the Province of Alberta, east of the Athabasca River;

All that portion of Township 57, Range 21, west of the Fifth Meridian in the Province of Alberta, east of the Athabasca River;

All that portion of Township 58, Range 21, west of the Fifth Meridian, in the Province of Alberta, east of the Athabasca River,

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the executive council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands, be withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, and set aside for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed, pursuant to Section 4 of the above referred to Act;

Further, that the said area shall be known as Colony No. 6, Marlboro, and any such members entering on the above described lands shall be entitled to surface rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 1603-38)

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE KEG RIVER AREA

Edmonton, Tuesday, May 9, 1939.

Whereas under Section 6 of The Metis Population Betterment Act (being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta (Second Session), 1938)),

it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time and from time to time set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of any members of any Metis Association formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Keg River Area, consisting of the lands hereinafter described,—

That portion of Township 102, Range 19, west of the Fifth Meridian which lies west of the Peace River;

That part of Township 102, Range 20, west of the Fifth Meridian, which lies west of the Peace River;

That part of Township 103, Range 19, west of the Fifth Meridian, which lies west of the Peace River;

That part of Township 103, Range 20, west of the Fifth Meridian, which lies west of the Peace River;

All of Township 102, Ranges 21, 22 and 23, west of the Fifth Meridian;

All of Township 103, Ranges 21 and 23, west of the Fifth Meridian;

All of Township 103, Range 22, west of the Fifth Meridian, excepting the,—

N.E. ¼ of Section 10,
S.W. ¼ of Section 13,
N.W. ¼ of Section 13,
S.E. ¼ of Section 14,

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed pursuant to Section 4 of The Metis Population Betterment Act; the said area shall be known as Colony No. 1 Keg River, and any such members entering on the above described lands shall be entitled to Surface Rights only until regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
(O.C. 547-39) Clerk of the Executive Council.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

ADDITIONAL LAND ADDED TO LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE KEG RIVER AREA

Edmonton, Tuesday, October 3, 1939.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the north-east quarter of Section 10, Township 103, Range 22, west of the Fifth Meridian, be set aside, and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of Metis Colony No. 1, Keg River, and any such members entering on the above land to be entitled to Surface Rights only until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
(O.C. 1327-39) Clerk of the Executive Council.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

CERTAIN PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF A METIS COLONY IN THE BIG PRAIRIE AREA

Edmonton, Monday, August 21, 1939.

Whereas an Act designated The Metis Population Betterment Act being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938 (Second Session), was enacted and assented to on November 22nd, 1938; and

Whereas under Section 6 of the said Act it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of any members of any Metis Association formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act, until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Big Prairie Area, consisting of the lands hereinafter described,—

All of Township 78, Range 15, west of the Fifth Meridian.
All of Township 79, Range 15, west of the Fifth Meridian.
All of Township 79, Range 16, west of the Fifth Meridian.

The north-east quarter of Section 9, all of Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, the east half of 16, the east half of 21, all of Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, the east half and north-west quarter of 28, the north half of 29, the north half of 30, all of Sections 31, 32, 33, 34. 35 and 36 of Township 78, Range 16, west of the Fifth Meridian.

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed pursuant to Section 4 of The Metis Population Betterment Act, the said area to be known as Colony No. 2, Big Prairie, and any such members entering on the above described lands to be entitled to surface rights only until Regulations governing the adminstration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
(O.C. 1100-39) Clerk of the Executive Council.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

CERTAIN PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR DULY QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF A METIS COLONY IN THE TOUCHWOOD AREA

Edmonton, Tuesday, April 11, 1939.

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Touchwood area, consisting of all of Townships 66 and 67, in Ranges 10 and 11, west of the Fourth Meridian, all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands, be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed (pursuant to Section 4 of The Metis Population Betterment Act, being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938 (Second Session)).

Further, that the said area shall be known as Colony No. 8, Touchwood, and any such members entering on the above described lands, shall be entitled to surface rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies, have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
(O.C. 423-39) Clerk of the Executive Council.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

LANDS SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF A METIS COLONY IN THE GOODFISH LAKE AREA

Edmonton, Wednesday, March 29, 1939.

Whereas (pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of The Metis Population Betterment Act, being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta 1938 (Second Session), the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may at any time and from time to time set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of members of any Metis Association formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Goodfish Lake area, consisting of the lands hereinafter described,—

All of Township 62, Range 14, west of the Fourth Meridian, excepting thereout Sections 35 and 36 of the said Township;

All of Township 62, Range 15, west of the Fourth Meridian;

All of Township 63, Range 14, west of the Fourth Meridian, excepting thereout all of Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36 of the said Township;

All of Township 63, Range 15, west of the Fourth Meridian;

providing, however, that the lessee of Ranch Lease No. 30177, which covers the north half of Section 15, Township 63, Range 15, west of the Fourth Meridian, shall have the right of ingress and egress to the said north half of Section 15, Township 63, Range 15, west of the Fourth Meridian, at all times so long as the said Ranch Lease No. 30177 shall be in good standing;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed, pursuant to Section 4 of the said The Metis Population Betterment Act.

The said area shall be known as Colony No. 7, Goodfish Lake, and any such members entering on the above described lands to be entitled to surface rights only until regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 379-39)

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

LANDS SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF A METIS COLONY IN THE ELIZABETH AREA

Edmonton, Thursday, June 22, 1939.

Whereas (pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of The Metis Population Betterment Act, being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta. 1938 (Second Session)), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof, which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of any members of any Metis Association formed (pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act), until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Elizabeth Area, consisting of the lands hereunder described,—All of Township 59, Range 1, west of the Fourth Meridian; all of Township 59, Range 2, west of the Fourth Meridian, except Sections 31, 32 and the west half of Section 33 west of Thompson Lake; all of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, S. ½ 19, S. ½ and N.E. ¼ 20 all of 21, 22, 23, 24. 25, 26, 27, 28, E. ½ 29, E. ½ 33, all of 34, S. ½ and N.E. ¼ 35; all of 36 in Township 60, Range 1, west of the Fourth Meridian; all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said Colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association, to be formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said The Metis Population Betterment Act, the said area to be known as Colony No. 9 A, Elizabeth, and any such members entering on the above described lands, to be entitled to Surface Rights only, until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(O.C. 815-39)

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938
(SECOND SESSION)

LANDS SET ASIDE FOR THE USE OF A METIS COLONY IN THE FISHING LAKE AREA

Edmonton, Thursday, June 22, 1939.

Whereas (pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of The Metis Population Betterment Act, being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938 (Second Session)), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial Lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of any members of any Metis Association formed (pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act), until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the Fishing Lake Area, consisting of the lands hereunder described,—All of Township 57, Range 2, west of the Fourth Meridian, lying to the east of Frog Lake, except Sections 25 and 36; all of Township 58, Range 1, west of the Fourth Meridian; all of Township 58, Range 2, west of the Fourth Meridian; those portions of Sections 25, 35 and 36, Township 57, Range 3, west of the Fourth Meridian lying to the east of Frog Lake;
all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purpose of the said Colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed pursuant to Section 4 of the The Metis Population Betterment Act, the said Area to be known as Colony No. 10, Fishing Lake, and any such members entering on the above described lands to be entitled to Surface Rights only until Regulations governing the administration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON.
(O.C. 816-39) Clerk of the Executive Council.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1938,
(SECOND SESSION)

PROVINCIAL LANDS SET ASIDE FOR A METIS COLONY IN THE EAST PRAIRIE AREA

Edmonton, Saturday, July 15, 1939.

Whereas under Section 6 of The Metis Population Betterment Act being Chapter 6 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1938 (Second Session)), it was provided that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may at any time, and from time to time, set aside out of any unoccupied Provincial lands, as defined in The Provincial Lands Act, any area or areas thereof which are deemed to be suitable for the settlement of any members of any Metis Association formed pursuant to Section 4 of the said Act until further ordered; and

Whereas it is proposed to form a Metis Colony in the East Prairie Area, consisting of the lands hereinafter described,—

North half of Township 70, Range 14, west of the Fifth Meridian
North half of Township 70, Range 15, west of the Fifth Meridian
All of Township 71, Range 14, west of the Fifth Meridian;
All of Township 71, Range 15, west of the Fifth Meridian;
South half of Township 72, Range 15, west of the Fifth Meridian

all of which lands are at present unoccupied and available for the purposes of the said colony;

Therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order that the above described lands be set aside and withdrawn from disposal under The Provincial Lands Act, for the use of duly qualified members of an association to be formed (pursuant to Section 4 of The Metis Population Betterment Act), the said area to be known as Colony No. 4 East Prairie, and any such members entering on the above described lands to be entitled to Surface Rights only until Regulations governing the adminstration of the various colonies have been approved.

R. A. ANDISON.
(O.C. 928-39 Clerk of the Executive Council

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
Bureau of Public Welfare

Activities in Connection with the Betterment of the Metis Population

The following are the areas which were submitted by the Metis representatives as suitable for Metis settlement purposes. However, there was some doubt expressed by them as to the suitability for agricultural purposes of Areas No. 6 at Marlboro, No. 8 at Touchwood Lake and No. 9 at Cold Lake.

When submitting these areas, it was stated that the main requirements given consideration were as follows:

1. Centred on, or adjacent to, existing Metis settlements, if suitable vacant Provincial lands could be made available.

2. Containing a considerable proportion of reasonably good agricultural land.

3. Containing, or adjacent to, a lake or lakes from which a supply of fish could be obtained.

4. Having a sufficient supply of timber suitable for the erection of buildings (shelter for families and livestock).

5. So far as possible to be located so as to be free from interference by White Settlers.

A further inspection was made by representatives of the Metis residing on land within the proposed areas, or on land adjacent to the various areas, and also an inspection was made by representatives of this Department. The following details disclose their findings:

AREA NO. 1 - KEG RIVER

Containing approximately eight townships, lying in the northern part of the Province, north of the south line of Township 102, and adjoining the west bank of the Peace River. This area contains large tracts of high class agricultural land suitable for settlement by farmers, and also adequate stands of timber (Jack Pine, Spruce and Poplar) suitable for building purposes, and accessible to the agricultural areas. A winter road from Notikewin to Fort Vermilion crosses the Area. During the summer months this road is not passable, as yet, entry into the Area being by river transportation (Peace River).

It is located at a considerable distance from any extensive settlement. While there is a small settlement at Keg River Post, the nearest settled area of any extent is at Notikewin, some sixty miles South. A limited amount of game is still in the district; fur, however, is badly depleted.

It is proposed to enlarge this Area as suitable vacant Provincial lands adjoin it, as certain Areas selected are unsuitable and are being abandoned.

AREA NO. 2 - BIG PRAIRIE

Containing approximately four Townships, having its southern

SF 314-20,
1/41, 60.

boundary line twenty miles north of the west end of Lesser Slave Lake.

This Area is of doubtful value for the purpose of Metis settlement under this program. While there is a considerable acreage of hay land, there is only a limited amount of agricultural land, much of which is burned over and of doubtful productive value. The remainder of the Area is muskeg and badly burned land on which there is a dense stand of second growth Poplar. It is doubtful whether this class of soil would justify the labour and expense of clearing the timber. No effort whatever has been made by the Metis in the vicinity of this Area to move into the Area, consequently no action has been taken to proceed with the program, any development being held in abeyance pending final decision as to whether the Area will be retained or abandoned.

AREA NO. 3 - UTIKUMA LAKE

Containing approximately four Townships, bordering on Big Whitefish Lake. This Area contains considerable unsurveyed lands, consequently it has been difficult to make a complete survey of the lands contained in it. However, land suitable for agricultural purposes is limited, possibly not exceeding 2,000 acres. There is a considerable area of hay lands adjoining the lakes, and the Area contains game and fur. Whitefish Lake, Little Whitefish Lake, and the other smaller lakes in the Area all contain food fish in quantity. Development of this Area is being proceeded with.

AREA NO. 4 - EAST PRAIRIE

Containing approximately three and one half Townships, located some fifteen miles south of Lesser Slave Lake. Inspection discloses that this Area contains only limited agricultural lands; this is, however, of very high quality, but does not exceed 1,500 acres. The remainder of the Area contains a dense growth of good Spruce, Pine and Tamarack timber, with some muskeg.

It is suitably located in respect of fur and game resources, but is almost inaccessible, the used trail into the Area being passable only during dry periods. Moreover, inspection indicates that the cost of making a passable wagon trail into the Area would be prohibitive. No attempt has been made by the Metis to settle in this Area, consequently no action has, as yet, been taken by the Bureau to develop it.

AREA NO. 6 - MARLBORO

Containing approximately eight Townships lying some twelve miles north of Marlboro, on the main line of the Canadian National Railway, West of Edson. This Area is in a heavily timbered district, and it is estimated the proposed area contains between five hundred million and six hundred million feet of mature Pine and Spruce timber, virgin forest, the opening up and development of which would necessitate very heavy expenditures. It contains no land suitable for agricultural purposes, and practically no hay lands. Further inspection of the proposed Area and an inspection of the adjoining lands has been made by representatives of the Metis, and reports obtained from Forest Rangers do not disclose any suitable vacant Provincial lands in the district. In view of this the Metis have withdrawn their request for a Settlement Area in this district.

AREA NO. 7 - GOODFISH LAKE

This Area contains approximately four Townships, and lies

RB-SF #614-21,
31/1/41, 60.

twenty-five miles south of Lac La Biche, and adjoins Whitefish Lake; in addition, four townships adjoining the Area have been held as reserved.

This Area contains a considerable amount of reasonably good agricultural land, and also timber, accessible to the agricultural land, both suitable and in quantities sufficient to provide for the needs of an extensive settlement. The resources of the Area include limited game and fur. Whitefish Lake and the smaller lakes in the Area all contain sufficient quantity of food fish to provided for all the requirements of a large settlement.

AREA NO. 8 - TOUCHWOOD LAKE

Containing approximately four Townships, lying fifteen miles East of Lac La Biche and including several lakes in which commercial fishing is carried out.

Further inspection of this Area made by the Metis representatives of the district and of districts adjacent to the Area disclosed that the Area is unsuitable for Metis settlement, containing little or no agricultural lands. In view of this, their request for the Area was withdrawn.

AREA NO. 8A - WOLF LAKE

Containing approximately four Townships, lying some thirty miles North of Bonnyville, and including Wolf Lake and several smaller lakes, all of which contain fish in commercial quantities.

Considerable doubt was expressed as to the suitability of this Area for farming purposes. Further careful inspections were made, both by the Metis and representatives of the Bureau, which disclosed that, while the soil is not of a highly productive nature, being principally grey clay (Alberta wooded soil) and in some parts badly burned, that it may be deemed suitable. However, the agricultural land is limited, and the Area will, in all probability, provide for not more than seventy or eighty families. There are good stands of Pine, Spruce and Tamarack timber in the Area suitable for building purposes, and some timber suitable for commercial purposes, particularly Pine tie timber. Properly managed, the timber resources would provide maintenance for many years for a settlement of the number of families mentioned. This Area is connected with Bonnyville and with Lac La Biche by wagon trail, passable for horse-drawn vehicles during any season of the year.

AREA NO. 9 - COLD LAKE

Containing one half a Township, lying some eight miles North of Cold Lake and adjoining Primrose Lake, together with approximately 200 acres (Fishing station) on the North shore of Cold Lake.

Inspection of this Area discloses that it is unsuitable for agricultural purposes, being rough broken land with considerable areas of muskeg and stony ridges, with a fair stand of merchantable timber. While this Area is unsuitable for development as an agricultural district, it is held as a division of The Elizabeth - Fishing Lake Areas in which there is no lake containing food fish excepting in very limited quantities, also in order that building timber etc. may be held available for the settlers in the divisions mentioned.

RG-SF #614-22,
31/1/41, 60.

AREAS NO. 9A and 10 - ELIZABETH-FISHING LAKE

These areas, which are being administered as one Area, contain approximately seven Townships.

Inspection discloses that the lands included in these Areas are not of a highly productive nature. There is a limited amount of agricultural land on the extreme South end of the Fishing Lake division and a limited amount of agricultural land on the extreme North end of the Elizabeth Division, the Area lying between being rough waste land including considerable muskeg and swamp land that, in years past, was a very productive muskrat area. This resource has been depleted almost to a point of extinction but may be vastly improved if protected. The entire area is stony, and even the land classified as agricultural land is poor, stony and of low productive value. This is the original Area set aside as a Metis Reserve many years ago, and in spite of the undesirability of the land, the Metis strongly demand that the Area be retained, there being some fifty families who have resided within the boundaries of the Area for many years.

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The 'Metis Population Betterment Act', Chapter Six, Special Session 1938, permitting the setting aside of Areas of vacant Provincial Government lands to be used wholly for the purpose of Metis settlement, was repealed and new, more complete, legislation was prepared and passed at the 1940 Session.

There was some delay in definitely setting aside the Areas requested as it was found that in a majority of cases land within the proposed Areas had been disposed of by the granting of homestead entry, lease, timber permit, etc. This resulted in some delay as it was necessary that the provisions of the Provincial Land Act be complied with, insofar as cancellations were concerned. As each Area was cleared and, as was necessary in some cases, boundaries changed to exclude land on which there were resident settlers, they were definitely set aside by Order-in-Council preparatory to being made available for settlement under the following program:

1. In all cases title to the land remains in the Crown, but provision has been made for the allotment of a specific parcel of land for the exclusive use of each head of a family, giving continuous tenure both to himself and his heirs so long as there is no forfeiture resulting from misconduct of a serious nature.

2. Providing for the formation of a Settlement Association of the Metis occupying each Area, and for the election of a Board from the members of such an Association as an Advisory Board for the purpose of administering the internal economy of the Area under a Government superintendent. The procedure to be followed and the regulations covering the formation of a Settlement Association, and for the election of officers of such an Association, is attached and marked 'Appendix A'.

3. Provision has been made to prohibit trapping, hunting, fishing, or the taking of fur-bearing animals within the Area by other persons than members of the Metis Settlement Association occupying the Area.

4. Regulations are now being drawn up to provide control of timber and other resources in the Area, also to control the entry into the Area of persons other than members of the Association occupying the Area, and to control the running at large of animals within the Area, the protection from forest fires and the trapping and hunting by members of the Association within the Area.

In view of the necessity for assistance by way of direct relief, which has been provided for a large number of the recipients within or adjacent to the Areas, relief work was set up, where practical, for the purpose of procuring building material, and under those projects saw logs were delivered in return for assistance being provided. The following statement, marked 'Appendix B', discloses projects operated during the past year which resulted in 319,060 ft. BM of lumber being procured from these sources, together with 67,000 shingles, involving a cash outlay covering only the cost of manufacture. This material is being placed in stock piles at convenient locations within the Areas, and made available for those settlers in the Areas unable to procure from their own resources material of this nature which is necessary to enable them to complete log houses and other necessary shelter in the Settlement Area.

Metis Settlement Associations were formed and officers elected in accordance with the regulations and under the direction of the Department's Supervisor in the district, for the settlement of the following Areas:

Area No. 1 - Keg River
Area No. 2 - Big Prairie (inactive)
Area No. 3 - Utikuma
Area No. 4 - East Prairie (inactive)
Area No. 7 - Goodfish Lake
Area No. 8A - Wolf Lake
Areas No. 9A and 10 - Elizabeth-Fishing Lake

In order to provide for orderly settlement in each Area, in which settlement is proceeding, provision was made for the survey of a Community Centre or Village Site, suitably located in each reserved Area with a view to centralizing the Settlement in order to facilitate the operation of schools and the administration of the Area. On the opening up of spring a small survey party commenced this work and at the same time made a careful check on each Area as to its suitability.

APPLICATION FOR SETTLEMENT

Application forms were prepared (Form RB-SF 529-1 attached) and issued in each Area when the Area was made available for settlement and the Board elected. This form was used in order that the necessary information could be procured covering the resources, general reputation, etc. of the proposed settler. On the application being approved and the settler entering the Area, if his own resources would not permit him to procure necessary material without assistance, he was provided with material taken out under the relief work program mentioned earlier in this report, the settler being required to subsequently give work in return for this or any other assistance provided. In some cases it has been necessary to furnish windows, shingles, nails and other material of a like nature.

Minimum dimensions have been laid down for dwelling houses. It has been necessary, however, in a number of cases

RB-SF #614-24,
3/2/41, 60.

for the settler to erect temporary shelter to take care of his family, and the Supervisor for the Area advises that those temporary houses have been erected in a manner which permits them being enlarged to make suitable permanent habitations.

In the allotment of lands, provision has been made and the lands surveyed, so that land may be available in parcels ranging from twenty acres to one hundred and sixty acres outside of the Village site. The Villages or Community Centres have been surveyed into residential lots of approximately one acre, thus allowing sufficient land for a garden for each home, reserving lots, each varying from three to five acres in extent, for church, school, etc. In the surveying of the Village site a definite plan has been followed in each case providing for roads, lanes, recreation grounds, etc. Adjoining, or in close proximity to each Village site, land has been selected and reserved for operation of a Community farm.

DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS IN WHICH SETTLEMENT IS PROCEEDING

Keg River Area No. 1

For settlement of this Area applications have been received from thirty-seven heads of families, of these nineteen are now residing in the Area and have erected necessary temporary shelter pending the manufacture into lumber of saw logs taken out by the settlers in return for assistance that has been provided. Arrangements have been made for a sawyer to move into the Area and manufacture lumber in the early summer, after which this material can be made available to enable the settlers requiring assistance to complete permanent habitable houses. A small amount of breaking, approximately forty acres, has been done in the Area and will be cropped this year. Logs have been taken out by the settlers, both for their own houses and for a school.

A local Supervisor has not, as yet, been placed in this Area, which has been administered by the local Board. As the Settlement progresses a local resident Supervisor will be necessary.

The settlers in the Area at the present time are settled in a group in the Paddle Prairie division of the Area, which consists of open land and soil of a very productive nature, the Village site being located approximately in the centre of the Area. The open land has been surveyed into parcels containing from twenty to one hundred and sixty acres. In no case, however, is there open land on any surveyed parcel of more than approximately eighty acres. This division will provide agricultural land for forty-two families.

The settlers have opened and cleared some fourteen miles of road from the Community centre to the landing on the Peace River, and have constructed a landing at the river suitable for the unloading of supplies, etc.

Utikuma Area No. 3

This Area was largely unsurveyed. However, a Village site and parcels of agricultural land have been surveyed at Gift Lake, which is approximately the centre of the largest Area /of agricultural land /in the Utikuma Area. Parcels ranging from twenty to forty acres have been surveyed and settlement commenced, details of which

ES-SF #614-25,
3/2 .60.

are shown on the attached statement for development in these Areas.

During the past winter provision was made to set aside 75,000 pounds of the authorized commercial fish catch from Whitefish Lake for the sole benefit of bona fide settlers in this Area.

Arrangements were made for the settlers to operate as a syndicate or community enterprise under the name of 'The Utikuma Fisheries', with some guidance from this Department. Arrangements were made between the Utikuma Fisheries and Mr. Taylor, fish exporter, to finance their operations and market their fish. Mr. Taylor financed the activities to the extent of $1,600.00 for the purchase of necessary nets and equipment, shipping boxes and supplies (food, etc.) and for the purchase of commercial fishing licenses. The Utikuma Fisheries erected a small plant at Whitefish Lake to facilitate storage and packing of fish for shipment. Under this program some 62,000 lbs. of white fish were taken and marketed, and some 10,000 lbs. of coarse fish. The whitefish was marketed through Mr. Taylor, realizing an average of 1½ cents a pound higher price than was paid for fish sold through other channels; the coarse fish was sold locally. This activity provided maintenance for all members participating, no relief whatever being issued in the Area to any member of the Settlement Association after fishing commenced. On completion of this activity a small balance owing of approximately $200.00 (advances made by Mr. Taylor) is being carried by him until next year. The Utikuma Fisheries finished their operations with approximately $1,200.00 worth of equipment and supplies; this includes a very conservative valuation of their plant at the Lake.

GOODFISH LAKE AREA, No. 7

This Area when set aside contained no settlers whatever, but was selected as suitable for Metis in the Lac La Biche Area. The Village site was surveyed at Little Whitefish Lake. A supervisor and foreman were appointed as it was necessary to provide proper supervision and guidance for the proposed settlers moving into the Area from the Lac La Biche and St. Paul districts.

While applications for settlement were received from ninety-seven heads of families, many applications were made without any genuine intention of moving into the Area. However, after careful investigation of each applicant by Dr. Quesnel, the Supervisor of the Area, sixty-six applications were approved and of these forty-one are actually residing in the Area at this time. Nine other settlers who were approved for settlement and entered the Area, and made some attempt towards the erection of buildings, left when they found they were required to work for all assistance being provided. There are now some twenty-five approved for settlement who have not, as yet, moved into the Area; some of these may not become settlers. Their applications, however, are held in abeyance at this time.

Details of the development of this Area and the expenditures made are shown on the attached statement. An extensive work program was carried out during the past winter to enable those in receipt of assistance to give work or service in return, and under this program saw logs (scaled) of approximately 100,000 ft. B.M. have been taken out. Arrangements are now being

B-SF #614-26,
1/2/41, 60.

made for a sawyer to manufacture these logs into lumber to provide material for new settlers' houses and other buildings to be erected in the Area this summer. A suitable house has been erected for the supervisor and a small office.

Under the Dominion-Provincial General Relief Agreement a relief work project was authorized, consisting of the construction of a road south of Lac La Biche towards Spedden. This road will pass close to the east boundary of this Area, and work was made available for all able-bodied settlers in need of relief, enabling them to earn sufficient to provide maintenance during the months of November to April (inclusive). This permitted those receiving assistance to participate in various development work carried on in the Area, and when the present authorized work project is completed it will shorten the road between this Area and Lac La Biche by some fifteen miles. The settlers in the Area have cleared and made passable a wagon trail from the Area to the existing Provincial road south from Lac La Biche, and under this project opened up some fourteen miles of trail.

Wolf Lake Area No. 8A

Owing to the doubt expressed as to the suitability for settlement of this Area, the surveying of the Village site has been postponed. A small work project was carried out in the Area, under which some 17,000 ft. BM of lumber was produced to be used in the completion of houses for settlers next summer. This provided means by which the settlers in the Area could give work and service in return for assistance provided.

The attached statement sets out development to date in this Area.

Elizabeth-Fishing Lake Areas, No. 9A and 10

This area of land, while divided into two Areas, is being administered as one, and it is proposed to amalgamate the two Areas for all purposes.

In the Fishing Lake division a school has been erected and is now in operation; a Church and Vicarage has been erected by the Roman Catholic Church and there is a resident Priest in the Area. A village site was surveyed and a temporary building erected for the local supervisor pending material being taken out for the erection of a permanent residence.

As considerable assistance has been issued during the past year by way of material aid, a work project was set up to take out saw logs and other building material, giving those in receipt of assistance opportunity to do work in return for this assistance. Under this project approximately 120,000 ft. BM (log scale) of saw logs were taken out and piled on skidways and arrangements made for sawing. (Subsequently forest fires raging throughout all this portion of the Province and the adjoining areas in Saskatchewan destroyed the greater portion of this material. It is possible that 20,000 or 25,000 ft. BM may be salvaged.)

The settlers in this division, many of whom have resided there for many years under conditions of extreme poverty, are in the majority of cases living in one-room shacks. It is intended to follow out a definite program for the erection of houses in the Area during the forthcoming summer.

2-SF #614-27,
2/41, 60.

A wagon road has been opened up and is now passable for automobile traffic during dry periods from the community centre to the main road at Frog Lake, this includes the clearing and making passable of some five miles, also a new trail has been blazed from the village site at Fishing Lake to the village site at Elizabeth with a view to clearing it and opening it up during the forthcoming summer.

In the Elizabeth division some 80,000 ft. BM (log scale) of saw logs have been taken out under a work project set up to enable those in receipt of assistance in the Area to give work in return. The manufacture of this timber is being carried out at the present time. This will provide adequate lumber to continue the housing program throughout the forthcoming summer. A set of logs has been taken out for the Supervisor's house or office, for a Government barn and storehouse. Two public wells have been dug, one of which provides an excellent water supply. Details of settler's houses erected, and other improvements made are on the attached statement.

In the Elizabeth division the settlers procured a small railway tie contract, under which they delivered six hundred and twenty-five sawn track ties to the Canadian National Railway. The net earnings, after paying dues, sawing and other expenses, amounted to $230.00. Timber dues to the amount of $26.26 were paid into the Bureau and placed in the Area's Trust Account.

STOCK AND EQUIPMENT

A limited amount of stock and equipment has been purchased and placed in the hands of the Supervisors of the various Areas in which resident Supervisors are located. These are required for the carrying out of the general development program in those Areas.

EDUCATION

Arrangements have been completed with the Department of Education in connection with the operation of schools as they become necessary in the various Areas. A school at Fishing Lake is operated under an Administrator appointed by the Department of Education (the School Inspector for the district) assisted in an advisory capacity by a local Board.

The erection of schools is provided for under the scheme operated by the Department of Education, which supplies detailed plans for the construction of log buildings. Settlers take out the logs, hew them, and erect a building, the Department of Education providing a cash grant for the purchase of necessary doors, windows, roofing material, hardware and school supplies. Arrangements have now been completed for the erection of teacherages under a similar plan. The teacher's salary is paid by the Department of Education.

Logs have now been taken out by the settlers under the supervision of the Department's representative for the erection of schools at Keg River, Wolf Lake and Goodfish Areas. It is doubtful as to whether there is justification for the erection of schools at Keg River and Wolf Lake until further settlement of the Area is completed. In view of this the erection of buildings will be held in abeyance until such time as there is definite assurance that the number of children in the Area of school age will justify the erection of the buildings. In the Goodfish Lake Area there are now some sixty children of school age. All arrangements have been made for the operation of a school as soon as the building has been erected and accommodation can be provided for a teacher.

HEALTH

Dr. Quesnel reports that he has visited each family and carefully inspected each home in the Goodfish Lake Area, and that the general health throughout the Area is good, and that there have been no cases of communicable diseases. Reports received from the Supervisors of the Fishing Lake-Elizabeth and Wolf Lake Areas indicate similar conditions, excepting at Fishing Lake there appears to be a high percentage of cases of tuberculosis (not Lobar), the majority of which have been under medical treatment for years. In the Keg River and Utikuma Areas conditions are reported to be similar to those found by Dr. Quesnel in the Areas in the eastern part of the Province. The greatest difficulty is being experienced in prevailing upon the settlers to adopt even the simplest rules of sanitation, or simple precautions to procure pure drinking water supplies, and it has been arranged that Dr. Quesnel shall visit each of the Areas in the north-eastern part of the Province during the forthcoming summer, for the purpose of dealing with this problem.

STORES

During the winter of 1939-40 applications were received from various merchants to operate stores in the Areas. Temporary stores were operated in the following settlements:

Keg River

Merchant John Herman intends to remain in the Area and has been satisfactory. At the request of the Board of the Settlement Association a permit was issued authorizing him to continue in the Area and the Settlement Association are making provisions for a building to be used by him as a permanent store. His prices have been reasonable, considering the long overland haul, and he has forced a general reduction of prices throughout the Areas tributary to Keg River of from 20% to 50%.

Elizabeth-Fishing Lake

Application was received from J. York, merchant of Beaver Crossing, to operate a small store in each division. His operations were not altogether satisfactory, and it is not the wish of the Board of the Settlement Association that he be allowed to re-open.

Those two stores were merely operated during the winter months. The Board wish to negotiate with a merchant at Frog Lake to operate a store permanently in their Area, and are prepared to erect a building in the Village site for this purpose.

PB-SF #614-29,
3/2/41, 60.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, 1940

SCHEDULE

THE CONSTITUTION of SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

(Order in Council No. 285-40)

Those eligible to become members of a Settlement Association and to vote in the election to the Board of such Settlement Association shall be confined to Metis of the full age of 21 years, who have resided in Alberta for a period of at least five years immediately prior to the date of the organization meeting.

The affairs and business of the Association shall be transacted by a Board consisting of not more than five members, who shall be elected in the manner hereinafter mentioned, and it shall be the duty of the Board to submit to the Minister the proposals for the purpose of the betterment of the members of the Settlement Association and for their settlement on any lands in the Province set aside for occupation by the Settlement Association under The Metis Population Betterment Act, and to co-operate with the Minister in the formation of schemes for such purpose.

For the formation of an Association and the election of the Board, a meeting shall be held at a time, date and place to be fixed for that purpose by the Minister, and all persons who are entitled to become members of the Settlement Association shall have the right to attend, and an official appointed by the Minister shall preside at such meeting.

The official presiding shall have the minutes of the meeting properly recorded and shall act as Returning Officer in connection with the election of candidates to the Board. At the conclusion of the meeting, the official presiding shall submit to the Minister:

1. A copy of the minutes of the meeting.
2. The names of those elected to the Board, together with the record of the number of votes received by each candidate.

Election of first Board

The Board shall be elected from those nominated.

The election shall be by ballot.

The procedure to be followed by members of the Settlement Association eligible to vote, in actually casting their ballot, shall be decided by the officer presiding at such meeting. At the first election, when a Board consists of three members, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected for a period of three years; the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall be declared elected for a period of two years; the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes shall be declared elected for a period of one year.

In cases where a Board is to be formed of five members, at the first election, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes shall be declared elected for a period of three years; the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes and the candidate receiving the fourth highest number of votes shall be declared elected for a period of two years; and the candidate receiving the fifth highest number of votes shall be declared elected for one year.

Notwithstanding the term of office for which the first Board is elected, they shall remain in office until the date of the next first annual election after the term of office for which elected would terminate.

At all subsequent elections, the candidate elected shall hold office for a period of three years.

Any person entitled to become a member of a Settlement Association may apply in writing to the Board of the Settlement Association for admission. Upon satisfying the Board that he is so entitled, and upon his application being approved by the Minister, he may then become a member of the said Settlement Association.

Election—Annual—shall be held between the 15th day of May and the 15th day of July, and shall remain the same date each year excepting when such date falls on Sunday, in which case the election shall be held on the day following.

In any case of an equality of votes in any such election, the Returning Officer shall have the casting vote. At the first meeting of the Board after election, the Board shall elect one of their members to act as Chairman of the Board for the succeeding year.

An election may be set aside by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on a report of the Minister if it is proved by two witnesses that gross irregularity was practised at the said election and any member of the Settlement Association who is proved guilty of such irregularity or connivance thereto may be declared ineligible for re-election for a period not exceeding five years.

Those Persons Eligible to Vote—Metis of the full age of 21 years and who are members of the Settlement Association and who have resided within the area set aside for the use of the Settlement Association for a period of at least one year; provided, however, that at the first election held after the formation of the Settlement Association, the residence qualification shall not apply.

Qualifications for Members of the Board

(*a*) Full age of 21 years.

(*b*) Must be a Metis and a member of the Settlement Association.

(*c*) Except at the first election, must be a resident within the area set aside for the use of the Settlement Association for a period of at least one year.

The Following shall not be Eligible to be Elected to the Board:

(*a*) Any person who has been convicted of a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment for a period of two years or more.

(*b*) Any person who has been convicted of three minor offences punishable by imprisonment.

Upon Election, Members of the Board shall be Required to Take a Declaration of Office as follows:

That he will declare he will truly, faithfully and impartially, to the best of his knowledge and ability execute the office to which he has been elected and that he is not receiving and will not receive any payment or reward or promise thereof for the exercise of any partiality, abuse, or improper use of the functions of his office.

Board Meetings

A meeting of the Board shall be held within three days after each annual election.

The Board at any meeting, at which the Chairman and a quorum of the Board are present, shall decide, by resolution, the date, hour and place of the succeeding regular meeting of the Board, and any member of the Board not present at such meeting must be notified by the Chairman, in writing, of the date, hour and place of such meeting.

The Board shall hold the ordinary meetings openly and no member of the Settlement Association shall be excluded therefrom excepting for improper conduct, but the person presiding at any meeting may cause any person who has been guilty of improper conduct at such meeting to be expelled and excluded.

The Board may, by unanimous consent, waive notice of any meeting and hold a meeting at any time, but every member of the Board must be present at such meeting.

A majority of the whole Board shall be necessary to form a quorum.

The Board shall hold not less than four nor more than twelve ordinary meetings in each year.

The Board may make rules and regulations for calling meetings, governing its proceedings for the conduct of its meetings, and generally for the transaction of its business. Any question dealt with by the Board upon which there is an equality of votes shall be deemed to be in the negative, but may be submitted to the Minister and his decision thereon shall be final. Every meeting of the Board shall be held at a convenient and suitable place within the boundaries of the area set aside for the use of the Settlement Association.

Forfeiture of Seat on Board

1. Any member of the Board may resign his seat, but such resignation must be made at a meeting of the Board and shall be accepted by the Board at that meeting.

2. If a vacancy occurs on the Board through death, resignation or otherwise, the Board may by unanimous vote, with the approval of the Minister, appoint a member to the Board to serve on the Board for the unexpired term of office of the Board member being replaced.

3. Any member of the Board may be removed from office by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the grounds of dishonesty, incompetency, intemperance, or immorality and declared ineligible to hold office as a member of the Board for a period not exceeding five years.

If, After the Election of any Person as a Member of the Board, he

(*a*) is convicted of a felony, or

(*b*) without being authorized by resolution of the Board so to do absents himself from two consecutive meetings of the Board, or

(*c*) ceases to be a member of the Association, or

(*d*) ceases to reside within the boundaries of the area set aside for the use of the Association, or

(*e*) is deemed by the Minister to be an improper person to hold such office for any reason whatsoever.

Then and in such cases he shall cease to be a member of the Board forthwith, and his office shall be declared vacant.

Duties of the Chairman of the Board—He shall be the chief executive officer of the Settlement Association and shall

(*a*) cause the laws, rules and regulations governing the Settlement Association to be duly executed;

(*b*) cause correct records to be kept of all proceedings at all meetings of the Settlement Association and of the Board;

(*c*) control and regulate all matters of procedure and form and adjourn the meeting to a time named;

(*d*) so far as may be within his power, cause all negligence, carelessness and violation of duty to be duly prosecuted and punished;

(*e*) report and certify all by-laws and other acts and proceedings of the Board to the Minister;

(*f*) to communicate from time to time to the Board all such information and recommend such measures as may tend to better the welfare of the Settlement Association;

(*g*) to keep a correct list of all who are members of the Settlement Association.

Appointed Board Members

If, in any Settlement Association, the number of members for the Board is for any reason not nominated or elected or by resignation or otherwise has been reduced to a number less than a quorum, the Minister may appoint some person or persons to fill the vacancies in the Board.

The Board may from time to time appoint standing or special committees consisting of one or more of its members and may delegate to such committee any matter for consideration, inquiry or management.

The Board of a Settlement Association may pass by-laws and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution of the Settlement Association, pertaining to the management and governing of the Settlement Association and the reserved area occupied by their Settlement Association. Any such by-law and regulation passed by the Board shall become effective when approved by the Minister.

The constitution and by-laws of Settlement Associations and the qualifications for membership in such Settlement Association and the conditions of membership therein and the regulations as set forth in the foregoing having been adopted as the constitution of the following Metis Settlement Associations at the organization meetings held at the places and on the dates hereinafter set out:

Keg River Settlement Association, No. 1
Meeting held at Paddle Prairie on June 20th 1939;

Big Prairie Settlement Association, No. 2
Meeting held at Prairie Echo on May 15th, 1939;

Utikuma Lake Settlement Association, No. 3
Meeting held at Atikameg Lake on January 7th, 1939;

East Prairie Settlement Association, No. 4
Meeting held at Grouard on May 29th, 1939;

Goodfish Lake Settlement Association, No. 7
Meeting held at Goodfish Lake on March 15th, 1939;

Wolf Lake Settlement Association, No. 8A
Meeting held at Wolf Lake on August 5th, 1939;

Elizabeth Settlement Association, No. 9A
Meeting held at LeGoff on June 6th, 1939;

Fishing Lake Settlement Association, No. 10
Meeting held at Fishing Lake on June 22nd, 1939;

as provided for in The Metis Population Betterment Act are hereby approved.

(Extract from *The Alberta Gazette* of March 15, 1940.)

EDMONTON: Printed by A. Shnitka, King's Printer

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Appendix "B"

TIMBER AND LUMBER PRODUCED IN METIS AREAS BY WORK DONE BY RECIPIENTS OF RELIEF IN RETURN FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE - TO BE USED IN THE ERECTION OF SHELTER FOR SETTLERS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE OF THIS NATURE

No. and Name of Area		Amount of Lumber Manufactured	Cost of Manufacture	No. of relief Recipients employed	Amount of relief & other assistance worked out	* Value of material produced	Remarks
No. 1 Keg River	Rough Sawn	91,372 FBM	$ 730.98	16	502.26	$1,461.95	
No. 3 Utikuma		nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	Adequate supply carried over from prev. year's operations
No. 7 Goodfish Lake	Finished Lumber-shiplap, flooring etc.	59,000 FBM				944.00	
	Rough Sawn	41,000 "				533.00	
		100,000 "	577.00				
	Shingles	67,000	100.50	15	629.88	184.25	
No. 8A Wolf Lake	Rough Sawn	18,509 FBM	74.03	6	112.98	259.00	
No. 9A Elizabeth	Finished Lumber	72,011 "				1,238.00	
	Rough Sawn	7,727 "				107.80	
		79,738 "	509.81	18	477.59		
No. 10 Fishing Lake	Rough Sawn	29,441 "	120.67	20	408.60		Saw logs & lumber lost through forest fire - approx. 20,000 ft. of logs salvaged.
	Lumber Shingles	319,060 FBM 67,000	$2,112.99	75	$2,131.31	$4,728.00	

* Value of lumber is based on local prices for similar material offered for sale.

PB-SF #614-30, 3/2/41, 60.

RB SF 529-1
20/9/39-500

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
Bureau of Public Welfare

File: ___

METIS SETTLEMENT OF ___ No. ___ Date ___

Name (in full) ___ of ___, Alberta.

Married, Single or Widower ___. Number of dependents residing with applicant ___
Are you a member of the Metis Association of Alberta? ___. Education ___
(State grade reached)

Length of residence at present address ___
Previous residence during the period covered by the five years immediately prior to the date of this statement. (Complete details are required, giving actual land locations and occupation) ___

Were you farming during this period? ___.
Experience in any class of trained work (trapping, logging, tie making, carpentry, or any other work) ___ Present Occupation: ___
What Physical disability, if any ___. Have you been in receipt of relief? ___. If so, when? ___
Military Service in France ___ Elsewhere ___
Are you, or any member of your family living with you, in receipt of pension, allowance or income? ___. If so, amount: ___. Source: ___
Do you own or have any interest in any real estate? ___. If so, give details of such land and nature of interest ___
How do you proposed to gain a living if you settle in the area into which you propose to move? ___
Name and ages of family and others dependent upon you for support and residing with you. Give names and ages:

Man ___ Wife ___

Sons ___ Daughters ___

Other dependents, if any ___

Parentage of Settler:

Settler's Father ___ (Name in full) ___ (Tribal Origin, if Indian or Metis)
Was he eligible for Treaty? ___. If so, state whether treaty was ever accepted or if he was non-treaty ___
Settler's Mother ___ (Name in full) ___ (Tribal Origin, if Indian or Metis)
Was she eligible for Treaty? ___. If so, state whether treaty was accepted by her at any time ___
Settler's wife ___ (Tribal origin, if Indian or Metis)
Has she ever accepted Treaty? ___. If so, give details ___

Owns the following property:
Land: ___ Qr. of Sec. ___ Twp. ___ Rge. ___ W. ___. Value ___ Mortgage Owing ___
Taxes Owing ___
Livestock: ___ Horses ___ Milch Cows. Other Cattle: ___ Hogs ___ Sheep.
___ Poultry.
Farm Equipment: ___

Other Equipment (Fish Nets, Traps, etc.) ___

Building Material ___

Household Effects ___

Debts against property (Must be shown in detail) ___

The information given in this statement is given by me for the purpose of obtaining permission to become a resident of the Metis Settlement at ______________________________.

I, ______________________ of ______________________________

Make oath and say:

1. I am a member of the Metis population of Alberta.
2. I have resided within the Province of Alberta continuously during the five years immediately prior to this date.
3. I am the full age of twenty-one years.
4. The answers given by me to the questions above set out are true in substance and in fact.

SWORN BEFORE ME
this ______________ day of
______________________, 19__
at ______________________
in the Province of Alberta.

____
Commissioner for Oaths

____

REMARKS:

RB SF 529-2
20/9/39-500

DETAILS OF RELIEF SITUATION ON METIS COLONIES

As at March 31st, 1940

No. & Name of Colony	No. of Members of Settlement Association	No. residing on Area	Total No. of persons including Dependents	Not on Area but approved for settlement	No. of settlers on Area who have been in receipt of direct relief prior to settlement		No. of settlers on Area who have not at any time received relief		No. of settlers on Area who have received relief since settlement was set up		Remarks
					Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	
No. 1 Keg River	37	19	72	18	9	2	4	2	11	1	
No. 3 Utikuma	27	19	84	8	15	nil	3	1	12	nil	No relief issued in Colony after Oct.31/39 to end of year
No. 7 Goodfish Lake	66	41	186	25	22	1	6	4	27	1	9 settlers have left Area and relinquished membership in Settlement Assoc.
No. 8A Wolf Lake	20	19	58	1	13	nil	1	4	10	nil	
No. 9A Elizabeth	23	14	92	9	11	1	nil	nil	12	nil	2 settlers have left Area and relinquished membership in Settlement Assoc.
No. 10 Fishing Lake	64	58	226	6	40	7	5	6	34	4	3 settlers have left Area and relinquished membership in Settlement Assoc.
	237	170	718	67	110	11	19	17	106	6	

DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS IN WHICH SETTLEMENT IS PROCEEDING

No. & Name of Area	Individual allotments of land	New houses completed and of suitable size	Average cost of houses	New houses, habitable, but to be enlarged	Old houses, reconditioned for temporary use	Settlers houses under construction	Government buildings	Schools completed	Teacherages completed	Schools under construction	No. of settlers who have land cleared for breaking	No. of settlers who have land broken on their allotment	No. of settlers who have land prepared for garden
No. 1 Keg River	19	1	$31.40		8	7	nil	nil	nil	logs out	30	8	5
No. 3 Utikuma	13				8	2	-	nil	nil	nil	nil	3	18
No. 7 Goodfish Lake	35	8	65.11	16	1	11	2	nil	nil	logs out	1	nil	1
No. 8A Wolf Lake	10	1	No Gov. cost	nil	11	6	nil	nil	nil	logs out	7	3	11
No. 9A Elizabeth	16	1	33.05	7	3	5	1	nil	nil	nil	13	2	11
No. 10 Fishing Lake	51	2	No Gov. cost	2	nil	7	1	1	nil	nil	1	15	37
	144	13		25	31	38	5	1	-	-	52	31	83

RD-SF #614-32,
3/2/41, 60.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Bureau of Public Welfare

ASSISTANCE BY WAY OF BUILDING MATERIAL, OTHER THAN LUMBER, ISSUED TO ASSIST METIS SETTLERS TO ERECT SHELTER FOR THEIR FAMILIES

Area Name & No.	Total Cost of Material Issued	Amount Recoverable under Dom.-Prov. Rehabilitation Agmt.	Amount not Recoverable under Dom.-Prov. Rehabilitation Agmt.
Keg River, No. 1	nil	nil	nil
Utikuma, No. 3	$ 20.88	$ 17.49	$ 3.39
Goodfish Lake, No. 7	593.14	275.98	317.16
Wolf Lake, No. 8A	nil	nil	nil
Elizabeth, No. 9A	143.31	67.22	76.09
Fishing Lake, No. 10	nil	nil	nil
	$757.33	$360.69	$396.64

RD-SF #614-33,
3/2/41, 60.

METIS COLONIES EXPENDITURES AS AT MARCH 31, 1940

		ADMINISTRATION		PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS		GOVERNMENT PROPERTY			DEVELOPMENT		
Area	Stock	Salaries	Expenses	Surveys	Comm. land Breaking	Livestock	Equipment	Maintenance	Seed	Sundry	Total
1 Keg River			78.25	498.09	93.75						670.09
2 Big Prairie				83.75							83.75
3 Utikuma	460.19		261.49	92.06	40.00		44.22		36.64	2.20	936.80
4 East Prairie				71.33							71.33
6 Marlboro	49.51										49.51
7 Goodfish Lake	1,122.84	600.00	64.15	106.02		355.00	294.25	275.30		50.00	2,867.56
8 Touchwood									12.50		12.50
8A Wolf Lake				39.67					10.00		49.67
9 Cold Lake				97.07					9.30		106.37
9A Elizabeth	715.96		77.00	120.05		335.00		90.00	3.30		1,341.31
10 Fishing Lake	10.66	416.67	246.59	136.58			14.21				824.71
Metis Colony General a/c		33.00	127.65								160.65
Metis Stock a/c	34.15										34.15
	$2,393.31	$1,049.67	$855.13	$1,244.62	$133.75	$690.00	$352.68	$365.30	$71.74	$52.20	$7,208.40

NOTE: Expenditures shown under salaries and expenses include supervision of relief work covering taking out timber etc.

-SF #614-34,
3/2/41, 60.

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, R.S.A., 1942

MINISTERIAL ORDER, APPROVED

Edmonton, Saturday, November 20, 1943.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order (pursuant to the provisions Paragraph (*j*) of Section 8 of The Metis Population Betterment Act, being Chapter 329 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1942), that the Order made by the Minister of Health, and attached hereto, be, and is hereby approved.

R. A. ANDISON,
(O.C. 1785-43) Clerk of the Executive Council.

MINISTER OF HEALTH
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

MINISTERIAL ORDER

under

THE METIS POPULATION BETTERMENT ACT, BEING CHAPTER 329 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF ALBERTA, 1942

Edmonton, Alberta, November 17, 1943.

Pursuant to the powers vested in me under the provisions of Section (8), Paragraph (j) of The Metis Population Betterment Act, I, Wallace

Warren Cross, Minister of Health, hereby order, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, that the following Regulations be made:

Regulations relating to the Administration of the funds of Metis Settlement Associations

1. That all moneys accrued or hereafter accruing from the sources hereinafter set out, shall be paid into a trust account known as the Metis Population Betterment Trust Account, held by the Provincial Treasurer on behalf and for the benefit of the Settlement Association, occupying the area from which the said moneys are received.

(*a*) Timber dues, provided for under the regulations governing the cutting and taking of timber from lands allocated for occupation by a Settlement Association under the provisions of the Act, and fees accruing from grazing leases, hay permits and leases of any parcel or parcels of such lands.

(*b*) Such other moneys as the Minister may direct from profits or surpluses accrued or hereafter accruing from the operations of community activities, organized and administered under the direction of the Minister and participated in by Members of a Settlement Association.

(*c*) Fines as provided for under Section 20 of the Act.

2. The Minister shall provide for the general management and administration of such trust account and may direct and authorize expenditure therefrom for the construction of permanent community improvements upon the land occupied by the Settlement Association on behalf of and for whose benefit the moneys in the Trust Account are held and for such other purposes as have for their object the advancement or betterment of the members collectively of the said Settlement Association.

Dated at Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta, the 17th day of November, 1943.

(*Signed*) W. W. CROSS,
Minister of Health.

SOURCE : THE ALBERTA GAZETTE, 1943

THE REPORT OF THE
METIS TASK FORCE
UPON THE METIS BETTERMENT ACT,
METIS SETTLEMENTS AND THE
METIS REHABILITATION BRANCH

Submitted To
The
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA
By

T.F. Roach, Chairman and Committee Members:

Clayton Sauve - H.R.D.A. Sociologist
Dave Bates - Emergency Services Director, Department of Social Development
A.R. Isbister - Director, Field Services, Department of Municipal Affairs
Arnold Pepper - Public Service Commission Representative
D.R. Ledgerwood - Department of Education Representative

Representatives Of
The Metis Association of Alberta

Edmonton
February, 1972

THE REPORT OF THE METIS TASK FORCE

In the summer of 1969, the Metis Association approached the Human Resources Development Authority with a proposal to have the Metis Betterment Act, the Metis Settlements and the Metis Rehabilitation Branch examined by a Committee from the Public Service of Alberta. (The committee became known as the METIS TASK FORCE: for brevity; it shall be referred to, simply, as the Committee.) The Committee would work in close co-operation with the Metis Association in the actual examination of the areas of concern.

The Committee was selected and comprised of the following people:

Clayton Sauve - HRDA Sociologist
Dave Bates - Emergency Services Director - Dept. of Soc. Development
A.R. Isbister - Director of Field Services - Dept. of Mun. Affairs
Arnold Pepper - Public Service Commission
D.R. Ledgerwood - Department of Education
A representative from the Metis Association of Alberta

The terms of reference were quite general, enabling the Task Force to include a broad range of concerns in its considerations. Consequently, the study tended to be comprehensive in its approach.

In the interview phase of the study, the Committee visited all of the Settlements and held formal and informal meetings with the residents of each Settlement. The Committee was somewhat restricted in providing full time to the study per se and this, of necessity, mitigated against an early report. Nonetheless, it was probably fortunate that no attempt was made to make an early diagnosis of conditions in the settlements.

A good point from which to begin tracing the history of the Metis Settlement Areas is probably the formation of the Halfbreed Commission of 1899. In the summer of that year, a Treaty Commission, headed by

David Laird travelled through Northern Alberta to 'make treaty' with the Indian tribes living in that part of the North West Territories. The Indians were offered and accepted: money; land; the basic materials for farming, ranching, hunting, and fishing; and schools. Each person received $12.00 at the signing and $5 per year afterwards. The chiefs received $25 per year, a silver medal, a flag, a suit of clothes every three years, and axes and tools for house building. The counsellors were given $15 per year and a suit of clothes (not quite as good as that of the chiefs) every three years. For land they were given a choice: either 640 acres per family of 5 in a reserve or 160 acres for each person wherever they wished. They were given ploughs, harrows, hoes, etc.; bulls and cows; ammunition and fish net twine. They were assured of schools and the freedom to hunt and fish all over. 1/

David Laird explained to the Indians and Halfbreeds that the Halfbreeds living like Indians could sign the Treaty with the Indians if they wished to do so. For those not wishing to sign and those living like whites, the Halfbreed Commissioners were present to issue scrip, but only after the Treaty was signed. "If there is no Treaty made, scrip cannot be given," was a strong bargaining point for the Dominion Government. The Halfbreed Commission was composed of Major Walker (a retired NWMP), Mr. Cote', Mr. Pruchomme (secretary) and Mr. Mair (secretary). Their offer to the halfbreeds was: 160 acres to those living on land (not clear if this was per person or per family); to the others either a scrip to the value of $240 which could be sold for cash, or a land scrip for 240 acres which had to be applied against a piece of land and

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1/ Charles Mair; Through the MacKenzie Basin, William Briggs, Toronto, 1908, pp. 56-58.

then the land could be sold if desired. 1/

The basis for giving scrip to the halfbreeds was an aboriginal claim: "The reason the Government does this is because the halfbreeds have Indian blood in their veins, and have claims on that account. The Government does not make Treaty with them, as they live as white men do, so it gives them scrip to settle their claims at once and forever." 2/

The Halfbreed Commission travelled from Edmonton to Grouard, Dunvegan, Fort Vermilion, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McMurray, Wabasca, Calling Lake, and back to Edmonton, taking up spring, summer and fall of 1899. They issued scrip at various points en route - a total of 1,843 of which only 48 were for land. 3/

The overwhelming choice for money scrip may perhaps be understood in light of the historic circumstances of the event. The halfbreeds were not farmers or ranchers, and land was plentiful everywhere. In spite of opposing advice from Fr. Lacombe, they preferred "....the bird in the hand....". 4/ In terms of dollars, the halfbreeds were given $430,880 by the Commission, of which an unknown fraction was realized by the halfbreeds. In the same party as the Commissioners were brokers from Winnipeg and Edmonton to purchase the scrip "....at a great reduction, of course, from face value....". 5/

1/ Mair; op. cit. pp. 58-59
2/ Ibid p. 58
3/ Ibid p. 145
4/ Ibid p. 68
5/ Ibid p. 68

Thirty-three years later, a number of responsible and concerned Metis people met with the Government of Alberta to express their deep concern about the plight of many Metis people in Northern Alberta. They pointed out that many Metis people were landless, in extreme poverty, suffering from malnutrition, sickness and their very survival as a people was threatened.

A Royal Commission under the chairmanship of Justice E. W. Ewing, was appointed in February 1933 to examine and report upon conditions for the Government. The Royal Commission report commonly referred to as the HALFBREED COMMISSION REPORT, was completed and presented to the Government in February, 1936. Almost three years later, 1939, the first Metis Colony, (Gift Lake) was organized, followed by a number of others in the following years, 1940 - 1941. Today, they number eight: Paddle Prairie (Keg River) - north of Manning; East Prairie; Big Prairie; and Gift Lake - in the general vicinity of High Prairie; Caslan and Kikino - South of Lac La Biche; and Elizabeth and Fishing Lake Settlements - south of Grande Centre, along the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary.

The Ewing Commission Report had recommended setting aside Crown Lands for the Metis people: The areas were to contain reasonably good farm land, timber for houses, hunting, fishing, and trapping resources and be free of interference by white settlers. By and large, these recommendations were carried out, bearing in mind that good farm land vested in the Crown was not in great supply even at that time. Settlers were able to construct log houses, hunt, fish, trap and provide basic necessities of life without interference from the larger society. The Commission had pointed out "....the Government of Alberta did not have any legal or contracted right, but with an actual condition of privation, penury and suffering. The right to live can not be extinguished and the situation as revealed to your Commission seems to call for Governmental guidance and assistance."

Clearly, the formation of the Settlements, the Metis Betterment Act and the Metis Rehabilitation Branch were responses to the recommendations of the Ewing Commission. Again we point out the legal or contractual obligations to the Metis people by the Government of Alberta have not changed from those cited in the Ewing Commission Report. The Metis Betterment Act provides special benefits for Metis people who choose to reside on Crown Lands, within legally-constituted Settlement Associations. Settlers do not acquire land ownership, but hold a Certificate of Occupancy for the lands they occupy or farm.

Annual Budgets are prepared by the Branch who undertakes the task of supervising their expenditure.

Throughout the length of this inquiry, it became clearly evident that the Metis people on the Crown Lands are not 'land hungry' nor do many indicate any great desire to acquire actual ownership and title to the lands. The stories of the ill-fated land scrips of the early 1900's have been passed down to the present generation, and they appear extremely conservative in making any changes in the allocation of Crown Lands.

Nevertheless, some critical and opposing points of view do surface in the transition of the Settlements from basic maintenance units to developing areas. Settlers need more land cleared, more farm equipment, more livestock and more operating capital. The question is; how?

The Metis Settlement Areas have reserved land ownership to the Crown in order to protect their land claim. However, the agricultural resources of Western Canada have been developed largely through land mortgages; but this source of capital has not been available to the residents of Metis Settlements. No alternative source of capital has ever been arranged for the Settlements to replace the mortgage system.

Because Settlements are situated on Crown Lands, the settlers in the main area are unable or unwilling to seek the conventional source of capital for development. Much of the land in the Eastern Settlements, (Kikino, Caslan, Elizabeth and Fishing Lake) is unfit for good grain production: It can produce forage and does provide fairly good pasture land. Thus, the settlers of necessity are moving into cow-calf livestock enterprises in a fairly orderly manner, but they lack sufficient capital for the accelerated growth necessary to become competitive within this commodity group. Consequently, it is not at all surprising to hear almost unanimous support for a special Metis Development Fund, preferably interest free, where settlers could borrow money to move ahead more quickly.

Many settlers engaged in various agricultural pursuits are aware of the risk and costs involved in financing their projects through conventional lending agencies. (Agricultural enterprises are high risk enterprises by their nature and settlers rarely have any reserves of capital or assets which can be quickly liquidated.) Unable or afraid to borrow the necessary funds to create viable agricultural units, many of the more ambitious Settlers have expressed a sense of deep frustration. Some settlers, however, are not interested in the settlements' agricultural resources. They use the settlements as dormitories; places where they can live, educate their children and be free of the concerns of the society at large such as taxation, ownership of property and rent.

The Committee is aware of the need to point out that conditions in the Alberta Society are much different today than at the time the Ewing Commission made its report. The problems outlined in that report were in large part, due to a severe economic depression which resulted in many groups of people finding themselves in various states of economic deprivation. Today, the same conditions do not apply and it is interesting to note that many Metis people never did move to these Settlements.

Today, the Metis Settlers number about 3,000 people, somewhat less than ten percent of the known identifiable Metis people in Alberta. To administer these settlements the 1969-1970 Budget of the Metis Rehabilitation Branch totalled $906,468.56 - a considerable increase from the 1962-1963 Budget of $236,300.00 - even allowing for inflationary dollar values. The largest increases have been in the wages vote - up from $56,500.00 to $155,786.23. Another sizable increase has been in Construction materials - up from $15,700.00 to $84,471.48, used in the construction of new houses. In addition to this, community pastures have been developed on five Settlements through shared costs under the Government ARDA Agreements.

The problem of leaving the Settlements must of necessity, be extremely difficult and traumatic, because unwittingly the Metis resident on the Settlement becomes a ward of the provincial Government, an almost parallel situation to the Treaty Indian on a Reservation. This was not the intention of the Ewing Commission Report: "The representatives of the Metis were emphatic in their statements that the Metis wished only such assistance as might be necessary to enable them to establish themselves, and that they were anxiously looking forward to the time when they could be self-supporting." (p.14). Thirty-six years later, it is incumbent upon the Committee to suggest it was not necessarily the feeling of the Commission that Crown Lands for the Metis people should be a perpetual committment. Nonetheless, the people are in the Settlements, they have ambitions and aspirations, they have needs and have to achieve some of these needs. These points deserve considerable, sympathetic scrutiny.

The governing body of each of the eight Settlements consists of three elected board members. Their function is more consultative than administrative. Line personnel of the Metis Rehabilitation Branch consult the Board members on budgets and operations of the Settlement. However, a great deal of financial responsibilities still remain with the local Supervisors, both in the areas of the Settlement people and the Branch operations. The Supervisor must see that projects are completed and monies accounted for, within the predetermined budget appropriations. He is the man in the middle, and in many ways, it is an extremely demanding and difficult job to fulfill. If things go wrong, he can be the 'fall guy'. Conversely, one study suggested the Supervisor usually retained the responsibility for popular decisions (money) while shunting off the unpopular decisions to the Board.

So the inter-play and interdependence of roles go on in varying degrees of sophistication within limits imposed by the fact that practically all Government monies spent on the Settlements comes down through the Metis Rehabilitation Branch. The Branch is the first to acknowledge the difficult job they are asked to carry out. As early as August 1970, the Director addressed a memorandum to the then Minister of Social Development, outlining some of their future roles in the Metis Settlements. This memorandum, in a form of proposal, suggests a modified form of local self-government within the existing framework of the Metis Betterment Act - Section 9.

The Committee has studied this proposal in considerable detail because it embodies a new approach to the government style in the Metis Settlement. It suggests the Metis Rehabilitation Branch has been keenly aware of the dilemma of what happens when "you do for people" as opposed to: "people do something for themselves". Furthermore, the more you do, the more is expected, a process resulting in effectively stopping the development of personal and collective responsibilities. Finally, to have Metis Settlements or similar areas of Northern Alberta wait for an economically viable tax base before attaining self-government clearly suggests that it will be a denial of any form of self-government for the foreseeable future.

The Committee proposes that any future development of the Metis Settlements, must be clearly identified with the development of people, rather than economic projects or programs. More government monies are not necessarily going to achieve full participation in the larger society, nor will self-government necessarily be the answer. We recommend extensive negotiations on specific issues between Government and the Settlement people with the object of establishing a relatively autonomous form of self-government in the Settlements. To suggest these negotiations will be relatively straight forward is unrealistic, but we feel the time has come to place the issues before the Settlement people.

The nature of the Metis Development Branch should be what the name implies "developmental". Trained and experienced staff should be recruited, whose functions will be stimulation and communication. They should continually stimulate Metis people to develop economically and socially and they should put them in communication with government and private agencies who can facilitate the development in question.

The following are four principles of community development that should be kept in view while developing a program and recruiting staff: 1/

1. Community development belongs to the people:

   The community development worker is only the catalyst. He usually has a number of techniques to stimulate and motivate, but the initiation of action must rest with the people.

2. The community needs ready access to resources:

   It is important that initiatives that are stimulated by community development activity can bring some tangible results, otherwise it will be just another meaningless dream.

1/ These principles are taken from E. R. McEwan, Community Development Services for Canadian Indian and Metis Communities. pp. 47-59 where a fuller elaboration is provided.

3. Employment of pilot undertakings to initiate the movement:

   Experience abroad has shown that it is advisable to avoid the development of a master plan to encompass all communities at the same time.

4. Community development must begin within the culture and value system of the people and move forward from there:

   The United Nations' community development experience has shown that a too rapid introduction of 'change' upsets the value system and has a negative effect on growth and progress of the people.

In making these recommendations, the Committee is cognizant of the role the Government may have to take in this development. For example, we see eight separate and distinct Improvement Districts at the outset, in effect, to build self-government at its lowest level of activity. We can see some Settlements such as Caslan and Kikino pooling resources to employ key staff people. We can see the same thing occurring in the High Prairie district where the three Settlements would hire their personnel on a three-way sharing basis. We can see the Metis Rehabilitation Branch acting as protem consultants to prepare the ground work, to assist the Settlements that desire their help, etc. We see Government in a position to defend a new approach whereby each settlement would be wholly responsible for pre-determined budgets provided to the Settlements in the form of outright municipal grants.

The reasons why the Committee feels the initial step would be the establishment of Improvement Districts are as follows: Present legislation in the Metis Betterment Act Section - Section 9 - provides for early entry into this form of local self-government. It is not a final objective, but merely a transitional stage of development with some specific date in mind to move into complete self-government. That more services which are handled at the local level, should be the ultimate goal - with responsibilities resting in the local communities. So long as people receiving them, have no control over the quality of the services and/or have no financial control and responsibility, people development will be virtually non-existant or else, role-playing to meet certain pre-conceived expectations developed hundreds of miles away, by "service people", are all the results that can be expected.

Our Committee was afforded the opportunity to examine Native areas in Manitoba and Saskatchewan during the past year.

Manitoba has embarked upon a form of local government very minimal we must admit and without any precise legislation to accommodate the situations. Local communities are given small grants. They elect a Council, they have various Committees, Social Assistance, Employment, Public Works, etc., where people could define their needs and exert their responsibilities.

Saskatchewan has six local Government Authorities in Northern Saskatchewan, as part of their Municipal Act. They are bodies corporate, (they may tax, spend monies, hold lands and equity) they receive special grants on a per capita basis as well as matching local taxes collected by the Authorities. They intend to have at least twenty Local Authorities in full operation by 1975, developing local responsibilities and initiatives,

7

in effect, using self-government as a community development base.

It became apparent to the Study Group that the single agency system for the Metis Settlement Areas has a double limitation for Metis people. First of all, it confines the residents of the Metis Areas to a "Jack of all trades - master of none" situation. Furthermore, it creates a barrier to government involvement with Metis communities even outside of the Settlements. The reaction of many government agencies is "There is an agency looking after Metis people -------!" The limited responsibility of the Metis Rehabilitation Branch for the Metis Settlements only is not always clearly understood by other government offices.

We acknowledge that the inspection and field services of the Department of Municipal Affairs would have to provide considerable assistance in the preparation of the Settlements for this form of Government. We see a real need to ensure that roads become a responsibility of local councils to the Department of Highways and Transport. We see a need for all agricultural development to be discussed and planned with the specialists in the Department of Agriculture, municipal services with the Department of Municipal Affairs, etc. We can foresee that some or all of the Metis Settlements could, if desireable, take over all the Crown Lands as corporate bodies under the Improvement Districts. They could manage their lands as they see fit and proper, arrange individual or long-term leasing, collective land holdings, or outright land ownership. We can see certain land or properties taxed by the local governing body. We can expect the Metis people to determine their future and the future of these lands. It is unfair to say that none of them wish to own land, it might be surprising to see how many would be prepared to buy their own holdings and accept the attendent responsibilities. These are fairly large orders for both Government and the Metis Settlement residents to accept and carry out.

The alternatives for either Government or the Metis people are not pleasant to consider. We can drift into the Indian Affairs philosophy outwardly professing to help people help themselves, but in practice, denying many basic and fundamental requisites for development. We could hire more personnel to do more for the Settlement people. We can then expect the Metis people (characteristically) to ask for more assistance so that more people can be hired to "do for them" and the escalation process would go on.

If a precise, well-enunciated mandate from the Metis people or their representatives is not forthcoming spontaneously, we feel the Government should take the initiative. We could make more definite recommendations about Government operated stores on four of the Settlements but it is more adviseable that the decision could be made as part of the self-government process. Government cattle herds should likely become the responsibility of the individual bodies corporate; as should machinery and the rest of the physical holdings.

The study group feels strongly that a Metis program must be available to all Metis who need it, not just to those who live in designated areas. The restriction of the programs of the Metis Rehabilitation Branch to Metis living in the Metis Settlement Areas has locked many people in a low employment-high welfare situation. For example, a Metis family can get housing assistance or participate in Metis work programs only in a Metis Settlement Area. If there is no provision for going beyond the Settlement Area to a viable position in the larger society, then the 'rehabilitation' has been less than complete.

We could make specific recommendations to tidy up the Metis Betterment Act and regulations. There are some obvious corrections that could be made at any time, but these are relatively routine matters. The Act could probably be rewritten and renamed in the next year or so with the direction of self-determination as the main thrust of any change.

There are no serious problems about existing benefits (hunting, fishing, trapping, etc.) and they should be retained if the people so desire. We are attempting to set out some long term objectives and directions because we feel the present developments are inadequate and will ultimately be unworkable.

Throughout the course of our deliberations, we have the support and encouragement of the Metis Rehabilitation Branch - its Director and Field Staff at all levels. We had the co-operation of other levels of Government; the Metis Association, its Directors; the Metis Settlement Councils; and last but not least, the Metis people themselves.

SUMMARY

The efforts of government and the Metis people must be directed into every avenue of human and economic development which will effectively eliminate any suggestion of the parent-child relationship. The Metis people of Alberta have been and will continue to be a distinctive part of Alberta's society, and we feel they will respond to sincere and positive overtures to bring about significant changes in their lives.

Therefore the following possibilities should be seriously considered:

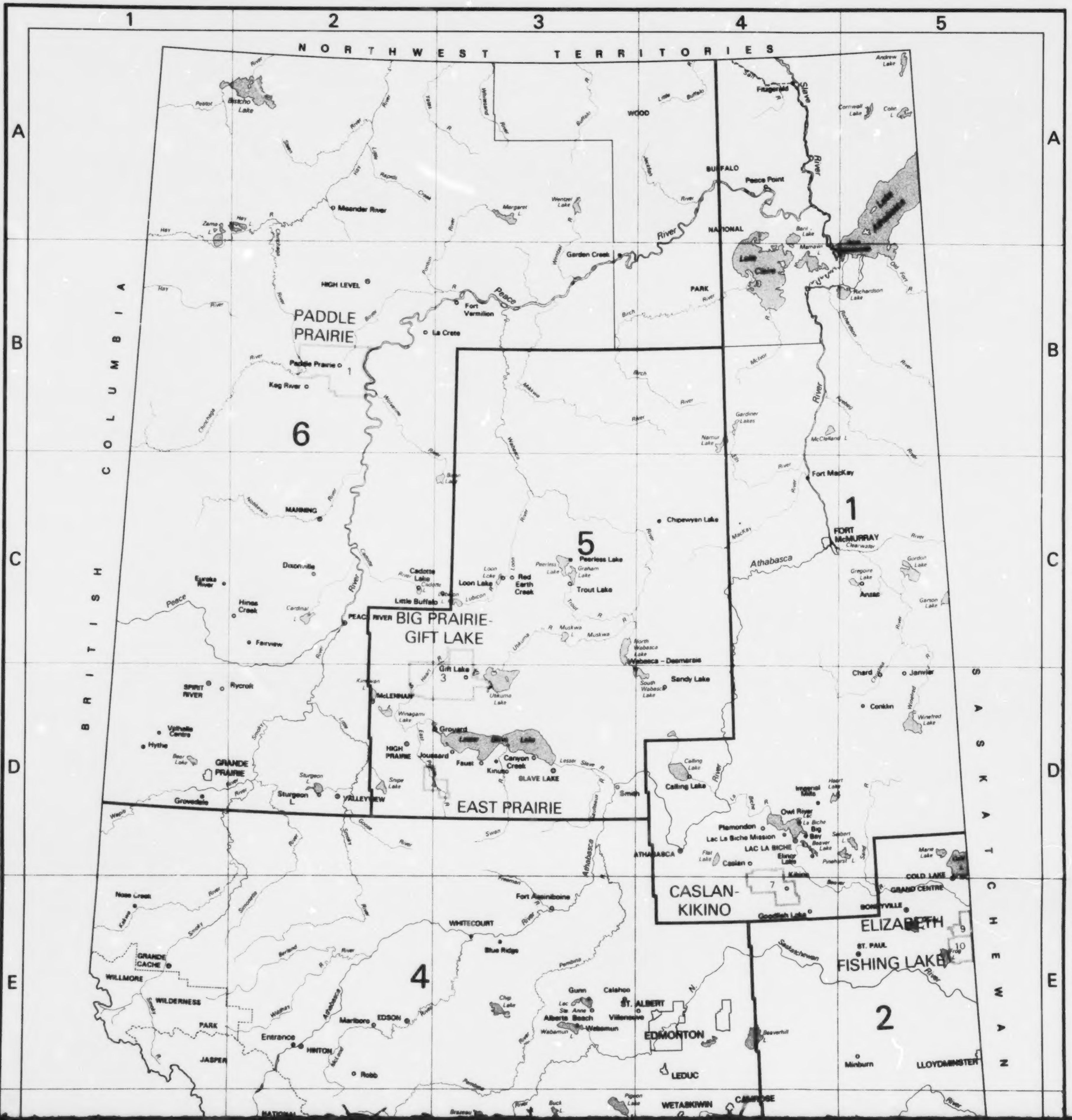
I. The development of local self-government, initially through Improvement Districts, ultimately to complete local self-government.

II. A deliberate program of Community Development in conjunction with local self-government as well as social, economic and agricultural projects.

III. Rewrite the Metis Betterment Act to emphasize development at all levels of Metis Society.

IV. Ensure that Metis people have direct access to elected representatives of the Province - and the financial resources of all government departments.

V. All disadvantaged Metis people have access to a Metis Development Program.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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
BRITISH COLUMBIA
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WOOD
BUFFALO
NATIONAL
PARK
PADDLE PRAIRIE
BIG PRAIRIE-GIFT LAKE
EAST PRAIRIE
CASLAN-KIKINO
ELIZABETH
FISHING LAKE
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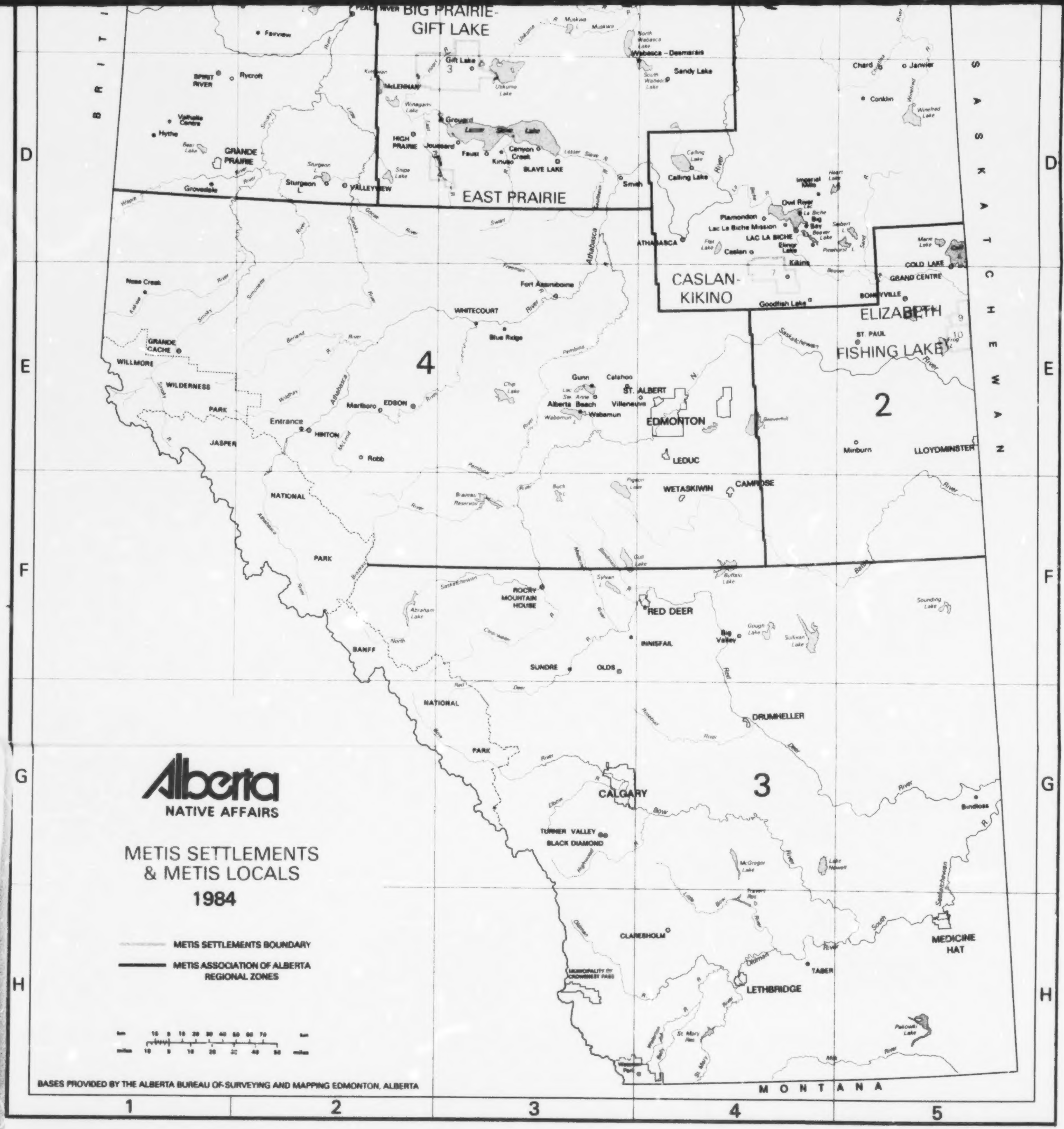
Meander River
HIGH LEVEL
Fort Vermilion
La Crete
Paddle Prairie
Keg River
Garden Creek
Peace Point
Fitzgerald
Fort MacKay
FORT McMURRAY
Chipewyan Lake
Peerless Lake
Trout Lake
Red Earth Creek
Loon Lake
Cadotte Lake
Little Buffalo
MANNING
Dixonville
Eureka River
Hines Creek
Fairview
PEACE RIVER
Gift Lake
McLENNAN
Grouard
HIGH PRAIRIE
Joussard
Faust
Kinuso
Canyon Creek
SLAVE LAKE
Wabasca - Desmarais
Sandy Lake
Anzac
Chard
Janvier
Conklin
SPIRIT RIVER
Rycroft
Valhalla Centre
Hythe
GRANDE PRAIRIE
Grovedale
Sturgeon L
VALLEYVIEW
Smith
Calling Lake
ATHABASCA
Imperial Mills
Owl River
Plamondon
Lac La Biche Mission
LAC LA BICHE
Big Bay
Caslan
Elinor Lake
Kikino
Goodfish Lake
COLD LAKE
GRAND CENTRE
BONNYVILLE
ST. PAUL
Minburn
LLOYDMINSTER
Nose Creek
Fort Assiniboine
WHITECOURT
Blue Ridge
GRANDE CACHE
WILLMORE
WILDERNESS
PARK
JASPER
Entrance
HINTON
Marlboro
EDSON
Robb
Gunn
Calahoo
Lac Ste. Anne
Alberta Beach
Wabamun
ST. ALBERT
Villeneuve
EDMONTON
LEDUC
WETASKIWIN
CAMROSE
Peace River
Athabasca River
Slave River
Lake Claire
Lake Athabasca
Lesser Slave Lake

METIS SETTLEMENTS IN ALBERTA

Big Prairie - Gift Lake	C2,C3,D2,D3
Caslan - Kikino	D4,E4
East Prairie	D2,D3
Elizabeth	E5
Fishing Lake	E5
Paddle-Prairie	B2

METIS LOCALS

Alberta Beach	E3
Anzac	C5
Athabasca	D4
Big Bay	D4
Big Prairie	D3
Big Valley	F4
Bindloss	G5
Black Diamond	G3
Blue Ridge	E3
Bonnyville	E5
Cadotte Lake	C2
Calahoo	E3
Calgary	G3
Calling Lake	D4
Canyon Creek/Slave L	D3
Caslan	D4
Chipewyan Lake	C4
Claresholm	H4
Cold Lake	E5
Conklin	D4
Dixonville	C2
Edmonton	E4
Edson	E2
Elinor Lake	D4
Elizabeth Settlement	E5
Entrance	E2
Eureka River	C1
Fairview	C2
Faust	D3
Fishing Lake	E5
Fort Assiniboine	E3
Fort Chipewyan	B4
Fort MacKay	C4
Fort McMurray	C4
Fort Vermilion	B3
Garden Creek	B3
Garden River	B3
Gift Lake	D3
Goodfish Lake	E4
Grand Centre	E5
Grande Cache	E3
Grande Prairie	D1
Grouard	D3
Grovedale	D1
Gunn	E3
High Level	B2
High Prairie	D2
Hines Creek	C2
Hinton	E2
Hythe	D1
Imperial Mills	D4
Innisfail	F3
Janvier	D5
Joussard	D3
Keg River	B2
Kikino	E4
Kinuso	D3
LaCrete/Sands Hill	B2
Lac La Biche	D4
Lac La Biche Mission	D4
Lethbridge	H4
Little Buffalo	C3
Lloydminster	E5
Loon Lake	C3
Manning	C2
Marlboro	E2
McLennan	D2
Meander River	A2
Medicine Hat	H5
Minburn	E5
Nose Creek	D1
Olds	F3
Owl River	D4
Paddle Prairie	B2
Peace River	C2
Peerless Lake	C3
Plamondon	D4
Robb	E2
Red Deer	F4
Red Earth Creek	C3
Rocky Mountain House	F3
Rycroft	D1
Sandy Lake	D4
Slave Lake	D3
Smith	D3
Spirit River	D1
St. Paul	D5
Sturgeon Lake	D2
Sundre	F3
Taber	H4
Trout Lake	C3
Turner Valley	G3
Valhalla Centre	D1
Valleyview	D2
Villeneuve	E4
Wabamun	E3
Wabasca/Desmarais	D3
Whitecourt	E3


Alberta
NATIVE AFFAIRS
METIS SETTLEMENTS
& METIS LOCALS
1984
METIS SETTLEMENTS BOUNDARY
METIS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA REGIONAL ZONES
km 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 km
miles 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 miles
BASES PROVIDED BY THE ALBERTA BUREAU OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING EDMONTON, ALBERTA
BIG PRAIRIE-GIFT LAKE
EAST PRAIRIE
CASLAN-KIKINO
ELIZABETH
FISHING LAKE
PEACE RIVER
GRANDE PRAIRIE
VALLEYVIEW
McLENNAN
HIGH PRAIRIE
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WETASKIWIN
CAMROSE
LLOYDMINSTER
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
RED DEER
INNISFAIL
SUNDRE
OLDS
DRUMHELLER
BANFF
CALGARY
TURNER VALLEY
BLACK DIAMOND
CLARESHOLM
LETHBRIDGE
TABER
MEDICINE HAT
MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS
WILLMORE WILDERNESS PARK
JASPER NATIONAL PARK
BANFF NATIONAL PARK
SASKATCHEWAN
MONTANA
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Kinuso	D3
LaCrete/Sands Hill	B2
Lac La Biche	D4
Lac La Biche Mission	D4
Lethbridge	H4
Little Buffalo	C3
Lloydminster	E6
Loon Lake	C3
Manning	C2
Marlboro	E2
McLennan	D2
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Rocky Mountain House	F3
Rycroft	D1
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Slave Lake	D3
Smith	D3
Spirit River	D1
St. Paul	D6
Sturgeon Lake	D2
Sundre	F3
Taber	H4
Trout Lake	C3
Turner Valley	G3
Valhalla Centre	D1
Valleyview	D2
Villeneuve	E4
Wabamun	E3
Wabasca/Desmarais	D3
Whitecourt	E3

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

THE METIS BETTERMENT ACT

being chapter 233 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 1970
with amendments up to and including November 16, 1979

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NOTE

All persons making use of this consolidation are reminded that it has no legislative sanction; that the amendments have been embodied for convenience of reference only, and that the original Acts should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

REGULATONS

The following is a list of regulations made under *The Metis Betterment Act* and filed as Alberta Regulations under *The Regulations Act* as of the time of the preparation of this consolidation for printing:

Metis Betterment Act	**Alta. Reg.**
Domestic Animals (Running at Large)	119/60
Amended by	237/75
Fishing	115/60
Grazing Leases	118/60
Amended by	232/75
Land Allotment	110/60
Settlement Associations	56/66
Settlement Associations (Funds of)	112/60
Taxation of Non-settlers	57/66
Taxation of Settlers	113/60
Timber	117/60
Amended by	351/73
Trapping and Hunting	116/60
Amended by	233/75

THE METIS BETTERMENT ACT

CHAPTER 233

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as *The Metis Betterment Act.*

RSA 1970 c233 s1

Definitions

2 In this Act,

(a) "Metis" means a person of mixed white and Indian blood having not less than one-quarter Indian blood, but does not include either an Indian or a non-treaty Indian as defined in the *Indian Act* (Canada);

(b) "Minister" means the member of the Executive Council who is for the time being charged with the administration of this Act.

RSA 1970 c233 s2

Settlement Associations

Co-operation

3 The Minister may do such acts and things as he considers proper for the purpose of co-operating with the board of a settlement association formed pursuant to section 4 to formulate one or more schemes

(a) to better the general welfare of the Metis population of the Province, and

(b) to settle the members of the settlement association on lands set aside for that purpose by the Province.

RSA 1970 c233 s3

Settlement associations

4(1) The Minister may promote the formation of one or more settlement associations composed of members of the Metis population of the Province.

(2) The constitution and by-laws of a settlement association shall prescribe

(a) the qualifications for membership in the settlement association, and

(b) the conditions of membership in the settlement association.

(3) A settlement association shall have a local board consisting of a chairman who shall be the local supervisor of the area appointed by the Metis Rehabilitation Branch of the Department of Social Services and Community Health and four members who shall be bona fide members of the settlement association.

(4) The Minister shall appoint two members of the local board and the members of the settlement association shall elect the remaining two members of the local board by secret ballot.

(5) The aims and objects of a settlement association are to co-operate with the Minister in preparing and formulating schemes

(a) for the betterment of the members of the settlement association, and

(b) for the settlement of members of the settlement association on lands of the Province set aside for that purpose.

(6) The constitution of a settlement association is subject to the approval of the Minister, and when the constitution is approved it is binding on all the members of the settlement association.

(7) A board of a settlement association may alter or amend the constitution of the settlement association only with the approval of the Minister, and any such alteration or amendment has no force or effect until it is approved by the Minister.
RSA 1970 c233 s4;1971 c25 s19(2);1975(2) c12 s9

Approval of schemes

5 Every scheme formulated and every regulation drafted pursuant to this Act shall be submitted by the Minister to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for approval, and upon approval it becomes effective.
RSA 1970 c233 s5

Public lands

6(1) Public lands under the administration of the Minister for the purposes of this Act shall be used for the settlement of or occupation by members of settlement associations.

(2) When any public lands are no longer suitable or required for the purposes of this Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall transfer the administration of the lands to the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife.
RSA 1970 c233 s6;1975(2) c10 s10(1);1979 c24 s3(2)

Hunting regulations

7 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in *The Wildlife Act* or any other Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may

(a) by order prohibit the hunting, trapping, killing or taking of any game bird, big game or fur-bearing animal as defined in *The Wildlife Act,* or a designated kind or description thereof over and upon any unoccupied public lands set aside pursuant to section 6, by a person who is not a member of a designated settlement association, and

(b) make regulations

(i) governing the hunting, trapping and killing of any game bird, big game or fur-bearing animal or a designated kind or description thereof, and

(ii) prescribing the fines, not in excess of one hundred dollars that are recoverable on summary conviction for a breach of any such regulations.

RSA 1970 c233 s7

Powers of Minister

8 With the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council the Minister by order may

(a) out of any lands set aside under section 6, allocate specified lands for occupation by a settlement association and the members thereof,

(b) after allocation of any lands for occupation by a settlement association

(i) prohibit persons who are not members of the settlement association from occupying, residing, sojourning, hunting, trapping or fishing on the lands, and

(ii) prescribe the terms and conditions under which a person or class of persons are permitted to occupy, reside, sojourn, hunt, trap or fish on the lands,

(c) make regulations prescribing

(i) the manner in which and extent to which the right to exclusive occupation of land that has been allocated for occupation by a settlement association is to be assigned to any member of that settlement association,

(ii) the terms and conditions subject to which such right is to be enjoyed, and

(iii) the events upon which such right is to be terminated,

(d) make regulations

(i) as to the erection of buildings upon lands allocated for occupation by a settlement association,

(ii) to prohibit the erection of buildings in contravention of such regulations, and

(iii) to provide for the demolition or removal of a building erected in contravention of such regulations,

(e) make regulations prescribing the manner in which and the terms and conditions subject to which a member of a settlement association is to acquire

(i) the right to trap or hunt on the lands allocated for occupation by a settlement association, and

(ii) the right to fish in a marsh, pond, lake, stream or creek within the boundaries of the land allocated for occupation by a settlement association,

(f) make regulations

(i) as to the use by members of the settlement association of a part of the land allocated for occupation by a settlement association in respect of which no person has the exclusive right of occupation, and

(ii) to prohibit the use of the lands in a manner other than that so prescribed,

(g) make regulations

(i) as to the cutting of timber on all or a part of the lands allocated for occupation by a settlement association,

(ii) prescribing the amount of timber that may be cut,

(iii) as to the disposition of the timber cut,

(iv) as to the disposition of the proceeds of the sale of the timber cut, and

(v) prohibiting the cutting of timber otherwise than in accordance with such regulations,

(h) make regulations

(i) as to the running at large of domestic animals on the land allocated for occupation by a settlement association,

(ii) prescribing the terms and conditions under which domestic animals may be permitted to run at large upon the land in respect of which no person has the right of exclusive occupation, and

(iii) prohibiting the running at large of animals in contravention of such regulations,

(i) make regulations prohibiting the use of road allowances that are bounded on both sides by lands allocated for occupation by a settlement association, by a person who is not a member of that settlement association unless he is in possession of a permit from the Minister allowing him to use a specified road allowance,

(j) make regulations as to a matter or thing not hereinbefore specifically mentioned that has for its purpose the advancement and betterment of

(i) a settlement association, or

(ii) any of the members of a settlement association, or

(iii) the administration of the affairs of a settlement association, or

(iv) any land allocated to a settlement association,

and
(k) prescribe penalties for the breach of regulations made pursuant to this Act.

RSA 1970 c233 s8

Improvement Districts

Improvement districts

9(1) Upon the allocation of lands for occupation by a settlement association the Lieutenant Governor in Council may

(a) by order designate the lands as an improvement district for the purposes of *The Improvement Districts Act,* and

(b) by the same or another order declare that all the provisions of *The Improvement Districts Act,* or such of the provisions of *The Improvement Districts Act* as are mentioned in the order, apply to and are in force in the designated area,

and thereupon, except as expressly otherwise provided by this Act, the provisions made applicable by the order apply as if expressly enacted as a part of this Act.

(2) Upon the designation of an improvement district pursuant to this section the Minister shall assign to the improvement

district a distinctive number, and the title of the improvement district shall be the words "Metis Improvement District" followed by the number assigned to it by the Minister.

(3) In relation to any such improvement district all the powers, duties, rights and capacities that are by *The Improvement Districts Act* conferred upon

(a) the Minister of Municipal Affairs, or

(b) the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, or

(c) the Department of Municipal Affairs,

are conferred upon the Minister as if the Minister had been named in *The Improvement Districts Act* wherever the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs or the Department of Municipal Affairs is named in that Act.

(4) The Lieutenant Governor in Council by order may provide that, in respect of all such improvement districts, or any such improvement districts as are specified in the order, when default is made in the payment of a tax payable under or by virtue of a provision of *The Improvement Districts Act* or of this Act by a person who has a right to occupy land allocated to a settlement association, the right to occupy the land ceases and determines.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of *The Improvement Districts Act, The School Act, The Municipal Taxation Act* or any other Act providing for the assessment and taxation of land, the interest that a member of a settlement association has in any land in respect of which he has acquired, pursuant to a provision of this Act, the right to exclusive occupation is not liable to assessment and taxation under any such Act.

(6) In lieu of any liability under such Acts every member of a settlement association who has for the time being the exclusive right of occupation of land shall pay to the Minister in each year by way of a tax such amount, which may include a minimum tax, as may be fixed by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(7) The tax shall be paid to the Minister at such time or times and in such manner as may be prescribed by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(8) The Minister has the same powers of enforcing payment of all amounts of the tax in arrears as are conferred upon the Minister of Municipal Affairs by *The Improvement Districts Act* for enforcing payment or arrears of taxes payable pursuant to that Act and not charged upon land.

(9) If the annual revenues of a school district in which are situated any lands that are allocated for occupation by a settle-

ment association are insufficient to defray the annual expenditures incurred by that district, any such annual deficiency may, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, be paid out of the General Revenue Fund without any further or other appropriation.

RSA 1970 c233 s9

Administration for Benefit of Members

Farming

10 The Minister may, for the betterment of the members of a settlement association, take such measures as he deems necessary or desirable to bring about the operation of farms upon any land allocated for occupation by that settlement association, and may prescribe

(a) the manner and extent of the operations to be carried on upon the farm,

(b) the persons by whom the farm is to be managed,

(c) the persons who may be employed on the farm,

(d) the disposition to be made of any produce from the farm, and

(e) the persons to be benefited by the farm and the extent of the benefit for a person or class of persons resident upon the lands allocated for occupation by the settlement association.

RSA 1970 c233 s10

Acquisition of farm machinery, etc.

11 The Minister may acquire by purchase or otherwise such farm machinery, farm equipment, livestock and poultry as is required for the operation of a farm of a settlement association, and may

(a) permit the use of the farm machinery, the farm equipment, the livestock and poultry upon the farm on such terms and conditions as he thinks proper, or

(b) sell the farm machinery, the farm equipment, the livestock and poultry to a settlement association or to any other person at such price and on such terms as he considers proper.

RSA 1970 c233 s11

Reservation of timber

12 Notwithstanding any provisions of *The Forests Act, 1971* so long as any lands are set aside pursuant to section 6, the timber on the lands

(a) shall be reserved for the sole benefit of settlement associations, and

(b) shall be dealt with in the manner prescribed by regulations made under this Act.

RSA 1970 c233 s12;1971 c37 s53(2)

Chief fire guardian

13 For all purposes of *The Forest and Prairie Protection Act*

(a) the chairman of the board of a settlement association is ex officio the chief fire guardian of the lands allocated for occupation by the settlement association, and

(b) each member of the board of a settlement association is ex officio a fire guardian.

RSA 1970 c233 s13;1971 c36 s39(1)

Transfer of rights on death of member

14(1) If a member of a settlement association dies and at the time of death had the exclusive right to the occupation of land allocated for occupation by a settlement association, and is survived by a husband or wife or by a child or children who are Metis, the husband or wife or child or children, subject to any regulations made pursuant to this Act, may become a member or members, as the case may be, of the settlement association, and acquire the exclusive occupation of the land.

(2) A right to the exclusive occupation of the land shall be deemed not to be established until a certificate permitting the exclusive occupancy of the land has been issued under authority of the Minister.

RSA 1970 c233 s14

Reservation of specific land

15 The Minister by order

(a) may reserve from any land allocated for occupation by a settlement association and in respect of which no person has an exclusive right of occupation, a specific part

(i) for the purpose that is specified in the order and that, in the opinion of the Minister, is for the benefit of the settlement association, or

(ii) that, in the opinion of the Minister, is required for the administration of the affairs of the settlement association,

and

(b) may permit the occupation of such specific part for such term and upon such conditions as he deems proper.

RSA 1970 c233 s15

Surveying etc., of lands

16 The Minister may cause to be made surveys, inspections, plans and reports as to any lands allocated or intended to be allocated for occupation by a settlement association.
RSA 1970 c233 s16

Determining whether Metis

17(1) If a question arises as to whether a person is or is not a Metis for the purpose of this Act, the question shall be referred to the Minister, who after making such inquiry into the circumstances as he deems proper shall decide whether the person is or is not a Metis.

(2) The decision of the Minister is conclusive and there is no appeal therefrom.
RSA 1970 c233 s17

Liens

18(1) No person shall take or become entitled to the benefit of a security, charge or lien on the property

(a) of a member of a settlement association who resides on land allocated for occupation by that association, or

(b) of a person who is the wife, husband, or minor child of any such member and who resides with him,

and every such security, charge or lien is void.

(2) No action lies against a person to whom subsection (1) refers for the price of goods sold and delivered to such a person.

(3) Where goods are sold under a valid conditional sale agreement to a person to whom subsection (1) refers

(a) the seller has no remedy for enforcing the payment of any money payable under the conditional sale agreement but has only the right to seize and sell the goods sold under the conditional sale agreement, and

(b) no action lies against the buyer for the recovery of any money payable under the conditional sale agreement.

(4) Except in the case of goods referred to in subsection (3) all the personal property of a person to whom subsection (1) refers is exempt from seizure under a writ of execution or an attachment or a distress warrant, warrant of attorney or any other process whether judicial or extra-judicial.

(5) This section does not apply to

(a) a charge or lien of indebtedness created by any of the provisions of *The Improvement Districts Act* or of this Act in respect of taxes payable under those Acts, or

(b) any proceedings for the enforcement of any such lien or the collection of such indebtedness.

RSA 1970 c233 s18

Acquisition of farm machinery, etc.

19(1) The Minister may acquire farm machinery, tools, equipment and livestock, and permit the use of the farm machinery, tools, equipment and livestock by such member or members of a settlement association and upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed by the Minister.

(2) No person shall sell, barter or dispose of any livestock provided by the Minister for the use of a settlement association or a member or members of a settlement association, or the offspring of any such livestock, without the written consent of the Minister or of some person designated by the Minister for that purpose.

RSA 1970 c233 s19

General penalties

20(1) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or any regulation made pursuant to this Act for which no penalty is prescribed by the Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars and in default of payment to imprisonment for a term of not more than ninety days.

(2) A fine imposed upon a person for the contravention of a regulation made pursuant to this Act shall, upon collection be paid to the Minister and be used for the benefit of the settlement association in whose area the contravention took place, but the Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct that the fine be paid to the Provincial Treasurer for the use of the Province.

RSA 1970 c233 s20

Personnel

21 In accordance with *The Public Service Act* there may be appointed such officers, agents and employees as are from time to time required for the purpose of the administration of this Act.

RSA 1970 c233 s21

Establishment of Game Preserves

Reserved areas for rehabilitating game, etc.

22(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife and of the Minister may at any time set aside as reserved areas for the rehabilitation of game, fish and fur-bearing animals

(a) any or a part of any lands set aside for occupation by a settlement association, and

(b) any public lands under the administration of the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife and not subject to a disposition made under any Act administered by him,

including therein all road allowances bounded on both sides by such lands.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife and of the Minister may in respect of lands mentioned in subsection (1) make regulations

(a) prohibiting the hunting or trapping of any big game, game bird or fur-bearing animal within the meaning of *The Wildlife Act* or a designated kind or description thereof,

(b) prohibiting a person or class of persons from occupying such lands or from residing or entering thereon,

(c) prescribing the terms and conditions upon which a person or class of persons is to be permitted to enter upon such lands for the purpose of residing, sojourning, hunting, trapping or cutting timber thereon, or for any other reason whatsoever,

(d) directing the adoption of such schemes and the carrying out of such works as are deemed necessary for the conservation of the waters in a reserved area, and in particular but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, authorizing and requiring the construction of dams, ditches, canals or other works to raise the water levels,

(e) generally as to any matter or thing deemed advisable for the purpose of

(i) developing and conserving the resources of the area in game, fish and fur, and

(ii) enabling the population of the area and adjoining areas to be and remain self-sustaining, and

(f) prescribing fines and penalties not in excess of one hundred dollars or imprisonment for a period of not more than ninety days, which may be imposed on summary conviction for a breach of any such regulations.

RSA 1970 c233 s22;1975(2) c10 s10(1);1975(2) c15 s10;
1979 c24 s3(3)

METIS BETTERMENT ACT

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